

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



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Decision due on farmer's dairy bid

A DECISION on whether a 1,000 cow mega dairy will be built on the outskirts of Welshpool will be made this week.

Judge Gary Hickenbottom is deciding whether the Lower Leighton Farm development would damage the Mid Wales landscape to such an extent that it would cancel out the employment opportunities it would create.

Farmer Fraser Jones wants to build the dairy at his farm and was given permission after a public inquiry earlier this year. But following an application by the World Society for the Protection of Animals, a high court appeal was granted which was heard at Welshpool Magistrates Court last week. Judge Hickenbottom will reveal his verdict tomorrow (Friday).

WSPA claims that the dairy would have such a detrimental effect on the local landscape that it would wipe out the benefit of the eight or nine jobs that the development would create.

Simon Pope, WSPA UK director of campaigns and communications, said: "Our case challenges the decision-making process behind this application and the implications we believe it holds for the future of dairy farming, not just in Wales, but throughout Britain."

Wind farm campaigners commended

CAMPAIGNERS who "gave up a big chunk of their lives" to fight controversial power plans at the longest wind farm planning inquiry in Wales have been commended by politicians.

The wind farm inquiry ran for a year in Welshpool. The inquiry will decide whether a 33-mile power line will run from Mid Wales into Shropshire.

The high standard of work of The Alliance was described as "extraordinary" by planning inspector Andrew Poulter.

Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies, said: "This is a brilliant example of people who have made a commitment, of people who care for their area."

Crucial crew youngsters given tips on staying safe



The mayor and mayoress drop in

HUNDREDS of youngsters have been given hints on how to stay safe in today's fast paced world by attending an innovative safety programme near Oswestry.

The Crucial Crew workshops, held at Nesscliffe training camp and supported by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club, warns youngsters about a variety of dangers ranging from how to stay safe on the internet to how to deal with bullying.

Cycling proficiency and road

safety are also a main feature of the workshops which have run over the last two weeks at Nesscliffe with about 1,300 youngsters, including many from Oswestry schools, taking part.

Jonathan Jones from Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club said this year's event had once again been a success.

He said: "It has been running every year for about 20 years and up to 1,500 children each year come along for the safety train-

ing. They come not just from Oswestry but from Shrewsbury, Telford and other areas.

"The event is run by a number of rotary clubs and it is good partnership working.

"The children are given different scenarios and they are given the safety message.

"It has gone very well again and it is important children are given advice on how to stay safe in every aspect of their life."

Other issues highlighted at the

safety workshops have included electrical equipment safety, hoax calls, school bus travel, safety on the farm and first aid.

Advice has also been given about fire safety, food preparation and hygiene, hate crime, river and coast safety and stranger danger.

Oswestry mayor John Gareth Jones visited the safety workshops yesterday to have a look for himself at the programme.

He said he was impressed with what he saw.

One-way system 'will kill someone'

A CONTROVERSIAL road system through Welshpool will "kill someone" unless urgent action is taken to scrap it, a councillor has claimed.

The town's one way system is an accident waiting to happen, with motorists still continuing to drive the wrong way, despite it being in place since February 2011, Councillor Ann Holloway said.

The Welshpool county and town councillor said she was left shaking after a near miss on the junction of Jehu Road this week and had also witnessed a near miss between cars going the wrong way in Church Street.

She has now called on changes approved by the Montgomeryshire Committee of Powys County Council last year to be implemented as soon as possible.

She said: "Someone has to take urgent action against this shambolic road system.

"If they don't either myself or someone else will be killed by a car sooner rather than later. It is desperate and I am hoping to speak to Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies to get things back to how they were.

"I was the only member of Welshpool Town Council to vote against the system being brought in and I think I have been proved right."

She added: "It will kill someone soon enough. It is the worst thing that has ever happened to this town."

Teen charged after police hunt incident

A TEENAGER has been charged with eight offences after his arrest brought an end to a police manhunt in Newtown lasting several hours.

The Dyfed Powys Police helicopter, officers and police dogs were pursuing the man after an incident in the town on Monday afternoon.

The 16-year-old has been charged with two burglaries, possession of an offensive weapon in a public place, burglary with intent to steal, criminal damage, theft from a shop and two charges of theft by finding.

He has been bailed to appear in Welshpool Youth Court on June 25.

FEAR FOR JOBS AFTER BUS CUTS

A PARTIALLY-sighted hospital worker has claimed council cuts to bus services have put her job at risk as she can no longer get to work on time.

Jane Ballinger works at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Gobowen and used to catch the number 60 bus service from Glyn Ceiriog.

However, the service was curtailed in May and as Miss Ballinger cannot drive she is now left with no way of getting to work on time or home after her shift.

Campaigners warned that losing the number 60 bus service could threaten the livelihoods of many in the same situation as Jane.

Miss Ballinger, who has worked at the hospital for more than five years, used to catch the bus in Glyn Ceiriog at 7.50am which went via Chirk, Gobowen and the hospital to Oswestry. In the evenings she would catch the 5.46pm at the hospital back to Glyn Ceiriog.

But the service has now been cut, meaning she would have to travel into Oswestry and catch another bus to the hospital which wouldn't arrive until 8.50am. The last busleaves at 5.02pm and she would have to change in Oswestry and Chirk.

She said: "Even if I left my office at 5pm I couldn't get to the bus stop by two minutes past. Without cutting my hours at work I cannot use public transport and continue to work as I do.

"I could potentially lose my job and my home because of this. Subsidised bus services surely were for exactly this purpose so people

by Pam Kingsley

in rural areas had as much chance as anyone else of being able to get to work to pay their taxes and contribute to the economy.

"I am heartbroken by this news. I am lucky to have friends who will help ferry me back and to, however, it shouldn't be like this, I should have the opportunity to get to work myself.

"I would be very sorry to leave the orthopaedic, I love my job and have a fantastic set of colleagues. Similarly, I cannot just leave the job as bills and mortgage still have to be paid."

Mabon ap Gwynfor, Plaid Cymru for Clwyd South, warned that losing the number 60 bus service could threaten the livelihoods of many people. He said: "The number 60 bus was a lifeline to Jane and others like her. For the sake of saving a few thousand pounds people's lives are being impacted upon, with some having to consider leaving their communities keep their jobs." Wrexham County Borough Council declined to comment.

Jake gears up for sponsored swim



Jake with his sponsorship form ready for his swim

JAKE Aplin is set to be one of the youngest to take part in a sponsored swim this year when he takes the plunge at the Orthopaedic Hospital swimming pool later this month.

The five-year-old is planning to swim, not one, but two lengths of the Pennell Pool at the hospital near Oswestry.

And he is appealing for people to come forward and sponsor him to raise money for the Leagues of Friends at the hospital.

His grandmother, Mrs June Middleton, is on the executive of the Leagues of Friends at the hospital. The league has branches across Shropshire, Cheshire and Wales.

She said she was very proud of her grandson.

"Jake used to come to the Pennell Pool with his mum, Emma, when he was a baby.

"Then he started having swimming lessons at Oswestry Leisure Centre.

"He recently won his badge for swimming a length in Oswestry, which is 25 metres when he was in the pool with swimmers much older than him."

Jake, from Old Mapsis Way in Morda, is a pupil at Trefonen School.

The Leagues of Friends gave one of its largest grants in its history toward building the hydrotherapy pool at the Orthopaedic Hospital after the original pool had to be condemned.

To help Jake with his fundraising effort please contact Mrs Middleton on jd.middleton@btinternet.com

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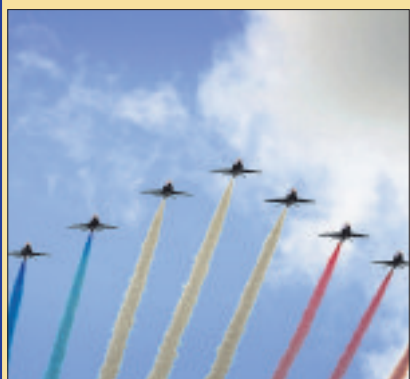
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PICTURE PREVIEW



The Red Arrows arrive at the Welshpool air show spectacular. See Page 10

CONTACT US

Have you got a story or an event you want covered?

The Oswestry Chronicle has a team of staff who can help:

Associate Editor: Graham Breeze
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Reporter: Pam Kingsley 01691 668098
pam.kingsley@shropshirestar.co.uk

Reporter: Sue Austin 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk

Sport: Dave Cooper 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk

Oswestry and Welshpool Photographic
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertisement Manager: David Lee-Birch
01691 668090
dlee-birch@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans 01691 668095
marcus.evans@shropshirestar.co.uk

Beverley Thompson 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk

Alex Reah 01691 668090
alex.reah@shropshirestar.co.uk

Distribution: Paul Jones 01902 319537

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

Plans for roundabout at Mile End go on show

by Iain St John

PLANS for a £4 million improved roundabout on the outskirts of Oswestry are to be revealed to the public today with council chiefs hopeful the months of work won't cause the traffic chaos seen this week on another roundabout further along the A5.

The work at the A5 Mile End roundabout will lead to the creation of a new business park and thousands of new jobs, Shropshire Council says.

Police give parking advice to motorists

POLICE are telling motorists to park more considerately after complaints about "significant parking issues" in a picturesque village.

Officers say some motorists in Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry are causing obstructions and have vowed to clampdown on the offenders.

The warning comes as Dyfed Powys Police continue to crack down on poor motoring in the area.

Officers say some motorists are causing congestion by parking around Yr Eglwys Fethodistaidd, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant and a bus shelter following a number of collisions.

Community support officer Richard Waldron of Llanfyllin Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "We are currently working with Powys County Council highways department in order to form a long term resolution to the problem."

"However in the meantime we ask that members of the public park considerately."

Motorists faced delays further along the A5 earlier this week after workmen descended on Shrewsbury's Preston Boats to install traffic lights.

Council bosses say highways chiefs have been working hard to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum so the hold-ups seen at Shrewsbury are not repeated at Oswestry.

Shropshire Council is holding an exhibition at Oswestry Memorial Hall today and tomorrow on the Mile End plans so people can see the plans in detail, and work is expected to start on July 1 and be completed in the winter.

The exhibition will run from 9am to 8pm each day.

Cllr Joyce Barrow, Shropshire Councillor for St Oswald, said: "I am hoping for as little disruption as possible, and hope that any impact on tourism and businesses will be minimal."

"Oswestry will still be very accessible and open for business even while the roadworks take place."

To minimise disruption, the majority of work will be carried out during the night, from 6.30pm to 7am, with the possibility of some daytime working during off-peak periods only.

Top chef backs pop up restaurant plan



Chef Lecturer Dan Thompson students Sam Marshall and Luke Gardiner, with Chef Marcus Bean

CELEBRITY chef Marcus Bean is teaming up with college students to open a pop-up restaurant.

The chef, a regular on ITV's This morning and a one of the stars of the forthcoming Good Food Show in Birmingham, said he wanted to help students at the Scholars Restaurant at Walford and North Shropshire College in Oswestry.

Tables are expected to be snapped up for the evening on July 12, which coincides with Oswestry Food Festival. College staff say they are delighted at the offer by the chef. The association between the college's new hospitality and catering department and Mr Bean began when Scholars Restaurant opened last year.

Mr Bean said: "I am keen to showcase both the students and the Scholars' restaurant. I love combining cooking with teaching as well as helping to further develop the students as they begin their journey into the catering industry."

"Giving students real work experience in a real kitchen and restaurant is absolutely vital. With guidance from me they will be planning the menu themselves and producing the food using local produce including some from the kitchen gardens at the Walford campus."

The cost of the three course meal will be £35 which will include a glass of Prosecco upon arrival. To book call 01691 668053 / 668000.

Since then he has helped students in the kitchens.

Mr Bean said: "I am keen to showcase both the students and the Scholars' restaurant. I love combining cooking with teaching as well as helping to further develop the students as they begin their journey into the catering industry."

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Police in appeal after sex assault

A TEENAGER has been arrested following a serious sexual assault on a teenage girl near Oswestry.

Police investigating the assault have appealed for witnesses as they believe the victim and the suspect may have been spotted at two locations between 8pm and 10pm on Saturday, May 31. Both were in the car park at The Venue, Park Hall before leaving together in a white van.

The offence is believed to have taken place in a field near the Orthopaedic Hospital at around 9pm.

Detective Sergeant John Weaver, said: "The 17-year-old victim was at The Venue car park in a white van with another female and a youth of similar age. There was also a young child present. Another white van was also there with the suspect who engaged in conversation with the occupants of the other vehicle.

"The suspect drove off with the victim at speed from the car park. I am appealing to anyone who saw these people with the two vans in the car park, or the one vehicle leaving at speed, to contact Shrewsbury CID on 101."

A 16-year-old has been arrested on suspicion of committing a serious sexual assault and given police bail, with conditions.

Carnival has a US theme

PREPARATIONS are well under way for Llanfair Caereinion Carnival which will take place on June 21.

This year the event will take an American theme, with a parade and fun and games as usual. Download an entry form at: www.llanfaircarnival.com

Fears 999 station closure could put lives at risk

by Andrew Morris

LIVES could be put at risk when a new £15million ambulance station replaces another which will see Chirk Ambulance Station close, critics have claimed.

The Welsh Assembly has announced plans to build the new emergency services base at the current fire station in Bradley Road, Wrexham, which will see Chirk Ambulance Station close.

Councillor Terry Evans, Wrexham Borough member for Chirk South, said the new station would mean ambulances would be so far away from Chirk and the Ceiriog Valley that it could put lives at risk. He said: "The Welsh Assembly has announced it will back the new emergency services centre in Wrexham which will see the Chirk ambulance base close.

"I am really very concerned that this will put the health of people in need of an emergency ambulance in the Ceiriog Valley at risk.

"They always say that there is a key golden hour in getting emergency treatment and there is no chance an ambulance will be able to get from Wrexham to the valley and back in that time. We could be talking up to 26 miles each way."

Both fire and ambulance crews will share services at the new base, with the Welsh Assembly contributing £8.4m to the cost.

Health Minister Mark Drakeford said it would give the two services the most modern facilities and allow better co-ordination of responses to incidents.

The new centre will include a local community safety office, an eight-bay fire station, a state-of-the-art training house and drill tower with a road traffic collision training area, ambulance accommodation, including a fleet workshop, offices and deployment base for response staff and facilities for staff, including a rest room, dining rooms, main office, lockers, meeting and training rooms, which will be shared by both services.

Professor Drakeford said: "This project will provide the most modern facilities available for both the fire and ambulance services in the area. It will allow them to work even closer together, creating more efficient and effective services.

"Most importantly, it will allow greater coordination when it comes to responding to incidents and improve response times."

Elwyn Price-Morris, chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service, added: "We are thrilled that Welsh Government saw the potential in this project and approved our Full Business Case."

MP joins showcase in capital



Organisers Julie Turner, Alison Jones and Susan Jones

A LITTLE bit of Mid Wales arrived in the very heart of London as the first ever Montgomeryshire Day was held at Westminster.

Montgomeryshire MP, Glyn Davies joined forces with the Farmers Union of Wales to hold the event within the Houses of Parliament in a bid to showcase the constituency to the rest of Britain.

From farmers and food producers to youth representatives and councillors, a delegation travelled into London to help put the region on the map.

The aim was to help attract both visitors and new business to the area, and also to

give local people the chance to meet those at the centre of government.

County Executive officer of the FUW, Susan Jones, said: "We asked our MP to consider a Montgomeryshire Day after similar events at Ceredigion and Meirionedd and he readily agreed. We wanted to take a little bit of Montgomeryshire to London and also to give local people to opportunity to make direct contact with the House of Commons."

"We want people not simply use Montgomeryshire as an access point to the Welsh coast, but to stay and enjoy the area."

NEWS in brief

DJ marathon after Act of Kindness

A CHARITY DJ marathon will be held in Oswestry after a man received Random Act of Kindness nomination from a friend on Facebook.

Lawrence Chapple-Gill, 49, will host the 12 hour DJ set at Wilsons bar, Oswestry, in aid of The Stroke Association on Saturday. It starts at 11am.

Formerly of Welshpool, now living in Manchester, Mr Chapple-Gill, 49, said: "As my friends and family will know, I've been DJ-ing since the early 80s and still do a bit now and then. It's something I can do and something I'll enjoy."

The Random Act of Kindness nomination campaign is a bit of a fight back against the Neck Nominations that were so popular last year.

Driver denies crossing claims

A FORMER soldier has denied driving over a level crossing despite the barriers being down.

James Hill, 23, of Maesymillion, Llandysul, Dyfed, denied a charge of dangerous driving at Welshpool Magistrates Court in relation to the alleged incident on March 7.

It is alleged that Hill drove an Audi TT past cars queuing at the crossing and "zig zagged" across the line, with only 30 seconds to spare before a train passed through. The case was adjourned to Mold Crown Court on June 20.

Messy church fun ends with a meal

A MESSY church service will be held at All Saints Church, Trefonen, near Oswestry, on June 28 from 4pm to 6pm.

Children of all ages are welcome to join in the afternoon of craft, drama, music and food, and must be accompanied by an adult. The session is free and ends with a meal.



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- Full day scenic tour which will include Schaffhausen & the Rhine Falls. With its renaissance architecture Schaffhausen is one of Switzerland's most attractive towns. The Rhine Falls are the most powerful in Europe, described by Goethe as the 'Source of the Ocean'.

- Full Day starts with a trip through the southern Black Forest to Tübingen famed for the beautiful lake of the same name with its crystal clear water. You can spend time strolling round the shops, sampling some Black Forest gâteau or maybe take a cruise on the lake to admire the surrounding scenery (not included in the cost of your holiday). We continue through the south eastern part of the Black Forest region back to the hotel

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NEWS

Police vow to crackdown on drinking in streets

by Andrew Morris

POLICE have vowed to crackdown on anti-social behaviour and street drinking in a town centre in Welshpool following a barrage of complaints from residents.

Officers said tackling the issue was top priority and an application for a ban on drinking in the town centre has been made by the town council.

And if the application for the Designated Public Places Order is approved, it will prohibit the consumption of alcohol within the town centre. It will not affect pubs.

Dyfed-Powys Police said it had received 55 calls relating to anti-social behaviour in Welshpool town centre between January 1 and March 18. Now the force is promising to up high visibility street patrols throughout the day.

300-year-old bells ring in celebration

A GROUP of church bellringers will be visiting a church near Oswestry to ring a marathon three-hour peal to celebrate the milestone 300th anniversary of the bells being cast.

Llanfyllin Church will host the visiting ringers at 2pm on Sunday.

Ringing master John Eddy said the peal will be a personal challenge as well as a celebration for the church.

"Being 300 years old we thought we would do something special so we're ringing a peal which is a bit of a marathon," he said. "It's one of those things that take a bit of effort to do. It's only been done once before on these bells.

"We've got ringers from all over North Wales coming in. I'm the only person from Llanfyllin ringing in the peal and it will be my first peal."

To try ringing contact Mr Eddy on (01691) 649061 or email john.eddy9@yahoo.co.uk

Sian George, force spokeswoman, said: "Cutting down on anti-social behaviour is a priority which was set by members of the community. High visibility foot patrols are being carried out in the town at various times of the day and officers will address any anti-social behaviour issues."

"Throughout January we received 24 calls relating to anti-social behaviour, with 19 relating specifically to incidents in the town centre."

"We submitted seven anti-social behaviour referrals to the Community Safety Partnership for Welshpool and patrols continue in the town centre and residential estates, and officers will deal with any incidents of anti-social behaviour accordingly."

"Throughout the period to March 18 there were a further 31 calls relating to anti-social behaviour, with 29 specific to the town centre. For this period we submitted 11 anti-social behaviour referrals and patrols will now continue."

"We also want to hear from anyone who has an anti-social behaviour issue affecting them."

TV crew join bargain hunters



Kevin and Adam Didlick, Tim Wannacott, Issidy Hafner and Betty Jones

TV'S Bargain Hunt became The Generation Game when the latest series was filmed in Oswestry with host Tim Wannacott.

In the blue corner – or team – were the mature ladies of the Llansantffraid Women's Institute, while in the red were two brothers in their 20s from Ludlow.

Their mission was to spend an hour scouring the regular Amulet Antiques Fair at the Oswestry Showground to acquire the best bargains possible with 300 pounds.

And the winners from the weekend's filming?

Well that won't be revealed until the series is aired in about six months' time.

Three of the regular BBC television shows were filmed over the weekend, featuring 12 competitors who came from across the country.

The crew also filmed a special episode to be used as part of the Children in Need programmes that will be seen in November.

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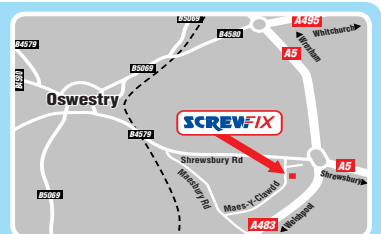
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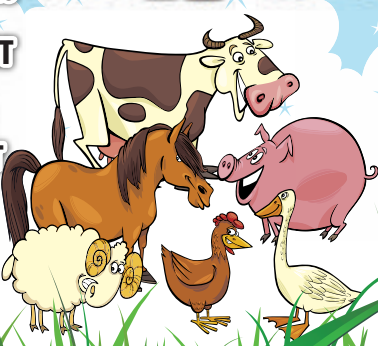
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www.oswestryshow.co.uk

Church celebrates 50-year milestone

HOPE Church in Oswestry is planning a special week-end of celebrations this weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of its opening.

Pastor Derek Hughes, said: "We are very excited to be celebrating 50 fantastic years of serving the people of Oswestry and would like to invite everyone who has had any connection with us over the years to join us in these jubilee celebrations".

On Saturday, between 12noon and 3pm there will be a birthday party which will include live music, entertainment, refreshments and fun activities. In the evening, starting at 7pm, there will be 'Hope Church - This is Your Life', an evening of stories, memories and celebration.

At 10.45am on Sunday there will be a celebration service at which the guest speaker will be the Rev Elfed Godding, National Director of the Evangelical Alliance Wales, a former pastor of the church.

Throughout the weekend there will be an opportunity for people to view an exhibition of the history of church in Laburnum Drive which will include photographs, press cuttings and video footage of events and activities held over the years.

Call 01691 655546.

Victory in battle to get crossing near school

A LONG battle to have a pedestrian crossing installed on a busy road near a primary school in Gobowen looks to have been won after council chiefs agreed to pay for the £40,000 work.

Safety campaigners in Gobowen have been fighting for more than a year on St Martins Road in the village.

Their battle overcame a major hurdle after it was announced funding of £40,000 has been included in the capital programme approved by Shropshire Council's Cabinet.

The work, is in the council's highways work programme for 2014/15.

Gobowen grandmother Dot Basham, who has led the campaign for the safety improvement, said she was "over the moon".

She said: "I have to say I am absolutely delighted, really over the moon."

"What we want to know next is when it will be built of course but it is fabulous news that we are now in the programme and the money is there."

Mrs Basham has to cross St Martins Road to get to School Lane in the village every time she takes her granddaughter to Gobowen

Primary School. The safety calls were made after several families who make the same journey reported near misses between pedestrians trying to cross St Martins Road and motorists travelling along the busy road at peak times.

Mrs Basham started a petition, signed by more than 750 villagers, calling for a pedestrian crossing. A team of campaigners also attended a crunch meeting at Shirehall in Shrewsbury in spring last year along with local councillors to press their case.

Shropshire Councillor for Gobowen David Lloyd said he was delighted. He said the move followed the direct involvement of Councillor Claire Wild at the request of himself, fellow Shropshire Councillor Robert Macey and Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

Fracking protesters voice fears



Trish Rorison, Teri Evans and Jonjo Evans

PROTESTERS took to Oswestry's streets in their campaign against gas drilling proposals.

Scores of people marched behind a mock drilling rig as part of a full day of activities organised by Frack-Free North Shropshire in Oswestry.

The parade came after a series of public meetings heard claims a drilling scheme for coal bed methane could lead to the industrialisation of parts of Shropshire and eventually bring fracking to the county.

The coal bed methane plans have been put forward by Dart Energy which aims to stage exploratory drilling in the county.

Campaigners fear the drilling plans for Dudleston near Ellesmere could lead to controversial fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, for shale gas in future years - a claim the company has denied.

Duncan Kerr, from Frack-Free North Shropshire, said he had been surprised but delighted by the turn out.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Thousands of people headed for Welshpool on Sunday to witness a fantastic air show at Montgomeryshire Airport – the problem was that thousands also missed getting in.

The Bob Jones Memorial Air Show, held in memory of my old classmate, who owned the airport and died in a light aircraft crash, was a massive success with brilliant displays by The Red Arrows and many others.

Bob, or Robert Sayce Jones as he was known to his school chums, would have been mightily proud of the event, and the organisers deserve huge praise for putting on such a spectacular day.

But the show was a victim of its own popularity with gates having to be closed long before thousands of people had even managed to reach the venue – I know I was one of them.

Failing to heed the organisers' warning to be there early I was caught up in the massive traffic jams that saw the area gridlocked in every direction with people simply just parking up to watch the display from where they were stopped.

The bonus for me was that I came to a halt outside the very welcoming Square & Compass Inn where brilliant views and great hospitality were enjoyed.

It is amazing that the organisers are able to attract so many brilliant displays and once they address the need for more parking space and easier access this show could become an even bigger success.

The age of walking to the school bus chattering away excitedly about the day ahead or what what happened last night is over it seems.

On the way into work recently I have more than once spotted a couple of teenage girls making their way together to the bus stop.

They walk as if in a three-legged race, bound together not by string, but by the sharing of headphones, I presume, to an MP3 player, listening to the same music.

Others already at the bus stop stand together, yet alone, music in their ears, tapping away on their mobile phones.

I would lay bets that the bus journey is no longer a noisy one full of banter or excited chatter as they continue keeping up to date with social network or listening to music.

Silence may be golden for the bus driver, but it's a sad way for our teenagers to be.



Luciano Pavarotti returned to Llangollen Eisteddfod in 1995, 40 years after his first appearance



Vincent Griffiths, 82, from Trevor, whose late mother put Pavarotti up at her Fron home in 1955



Alice Griffiths meets up with Fernando and Luciano Pavarotti again at the Bryn Howel Hotel in 1995

WORKING FOR YOU



Glyn Davies MP

Since my last article, Her Majesty the Queen has delivered her final Queen's Speech of the current Parliament.

As always it was a wonderfully colourful occasion, and I must admit that I stayed outside to watch Her Majesty arrive in her new Jubilee coach.

I will make three personal observations. Firstly, the Queen's voice. She delivers the speech with the clarity and power of someone half her age. She really is a very special person.

Secondly, no nation in the world can match Britain when it comes to events of this sort, with huge crowds transfixed by the grandness and pageantry.

And thirdly, the black horses. They are truly magnificent creatures. I feel an emotional surge as I hear the clattering of 400 hooves when they round Parliament Square, leading Her Majesty up to the Palace of Westminster. For some people, it may be "only a speech", but for me Queen's Speech day will always be very special.

Because there are only about 10 months until MPs clear their offices for the 2015 General Election, this year's speech didn't contain as many bills as usual. Personally, I think this is all to the good. Governments have a tendency to pass too many new laws. But there is still lots of important work to do before next May. There will be major change giving us freedom about how we access our private pensions, how we deal with serious crime, how we support small business, and much else.

There are two potentially controversial bills. Firstly, we will introduce a new law to let voters recall an MP and hold a by-election if he or she has behaved in an unacceptable way. There is some debate about whether this bill should be stronger, but it's the first time voters will be given the right to remove an MP between elections.

And the second bill will be about changing the trespass rules to enable shale gas drilling deep down below private property. I expect these two bills to be very contentious.

As always, The Queen's Speech signals long hours of debate for MPs, but I think of it as a great privilege.

Choir member turned down Pavarotti duet

A member of Fron Choir turned down chance to sing with one of opera's greats. By IAIN ST JOHN

A FOUNDER member of a famous male voice choir based near the Shropshire border has been remembering the occasion almost 60 years ago when he turned down the chance to join legendary tenor Luciano Pavarotti in a sing-song around the family piano.

Vincent Griffiths from the Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir, now a sprightly 82, was a young man in his early twenties when his late mother, Alice Griffiths, played host to Pavarotti and his father while they were competing at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in 1955.

Competition

Mrs Griffiths opened her home in Beech House, Froncysyllte, to Luciano and Fernando Pavarotti for a week as the Chorus Rossini from Modena in northern Italy took part in – and won – the male choral competition.

Mr Griffiths, one of the first members of the Fron Choir and part of its line-up for 45 years, said: "My mother and father, Alice and William Griffiths, offered free board every year to people performing at the Eisteddfod.

"Over the years they had all nationalities there and enjoyed playing host to them.

"In 1955 Pavarotti, his father and two other members of their choir were staying at the house.

"I'd just been married to my wife, Nesta, and we were living in nearby



The Froncysyllte Male Voice Choir in the 1950s, with Vincent circled.

Newbridge and I walked over one night to my mother's in Fron to meet their guests.

"Of course, Pavarotti wasn't famous then but he had a fine voice and was always singing.

"He was sitting at my mother's piano.

"Neither he nor his father spoke English very well but when he heard I sang with a choir too Pavarotti invited me to join him in a song.

"I politely refused. Actually, I was due to compete against him when both our choirs were in the main choral competition that Saturday – but that wasn't why I turned him down.

"I was a bit shy and didn't think my voice was very good, although I had been one of the first members of the Fron Choir from the age of 15.

"We went on talking about music for half an hour and I recall that both

Pavarotti and his father were very nice chaps."

Mr Griffiths, a retired lab worker at the Monsanto factory near his home has a son, Peter, who lives in Acrefair, two grand-daughters and three great-grandchildren.

He added: "After that, of course, Pavarotti became very famous but he came back to sing as the star at the Llangollen eisteddfod 40 years later.

Remembered

"He was staying with his father at the Bryn Howel Hotel and I took my mother, who died about 10 years ago at the age of 93, to see them.

"We didn't have long to speak to Luciano but I think he remembered my mother.

"Fernando spoke to us for longer and

put his arm around my mother. It was nice to have that reunion.

"With the Fron choir, which I left about 20 years ago, I sang second tenor and then first bass.

"I must have competed at Llangollen at least 30 times over the years from 1948 and it was always a highlight for us."

In 1955 larger-than-life Pavarotti was a slim 19-year-old trainee teacher who had joined the choir because his father, a baker, was a stalwart member of the chorus.

The moment the Modena choir won the male choral competition and the visit to Llangollen left an indelible impression on him and he often spoke of it.

Pavarotti said many times that he wanted to go back to Llangollen one day and that desire was fulfilled in 1995 when he made a triumphant return to headline at that year's eisteddfod, marking the 40th anniversary of his first visit to north Wales.

Another giant of the world of opera, Wales's own Bryn Terfel, will headline a spectacular curtain-raiser to this year's International Musical Eisteddfod when he leads an all-Welsh cast, which also includes Wynne Evans, in a performance of Stephen Sondheim's Broadway smash Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street on July 6.

It will begin a run of six days at Llangollen filled with international talent.

As well as the musical competitions, there will be circus acts from across the globe.

This year's line-up includes Cirque du Soleil's Bruce Bilodeau, as well as acrobats from the Chinese State Circus and Spellbound, the acrobatic gymnasts who were the 2010 winners of Britain's Got Talent. Bringing the house down will be legendary British rockers Status Quo who released the first of their 100 singles almost 50 years ago and are still Rocking All Over The World. See <http://international-eisteddfod.co.uk/> for details.

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AS A FARMER, IF I DO NOT CLAIM MY 2014 SFP ENTITLEMENTS WILL I LOSE THEM?

Q: I am very confused about SFP entitlements following the CAP Reform. Although they were activated last year, some of my entitlements are not likely to be activated this year. Will they be confiscated and therefore excluded from valuation calculations for the 2015 entitlements? Also, if I were to sell my entitlements would it affect the value of my land?

A: Normally entitlements not activated in 2013 and 2014 would be confiscated with effect from January 1st 2015. However, as all entitlements are being abolished at the end of 2014 this will have no practical effect so entitlements not activated in 2013 or 2014 would still be regarded as held by you on 15th May this year and, as such, will be included in the calculation of the initial unit value of your entitlements established in 2015. This is of course provided you meet all the eligibility criteria in 2015.

In respect of selling your entitlements, entitlements are not attached to specific parcels of land. They have a value of their own and can be bought and sold completely independently of your land. However, before deciding to sell your entitlements it would be wise to seek professional advice as there may be capital gains tax implications.

It is also worth noting that if you sell your entitlements without claiming this year you can still apply to establish entitlements in 2015, provided you claimed on them in 2013 and are able to meet the active farmer provisions. There is no requirement to hold entitlements or claim SFP in 2014. If you have no entitlements in 2014, the initial unit value of the entitlements you establish in 2015 will be zero and then they will progress in equal steps towards the end value in 2019, which has still to be decided. Your entitlements will not be valued at zero in 2015 as 2015 is the first year of the transition.

Further information relating to this question is available from Eliot Hibbert, a partner with GHP Legal.
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Hold-ups are just one delay too many

THE Highways Agency has promised a summer of delays on the A5 as traffic lights are installed on a roundabout at a cost of £4million.

Is this organisation incapable of learning that lights cause hold-ups? Traffic has to stop on red irrespective of the need. At least a roundabout allows traffic to feed through when it is safe to do so. The danger and delays at the Dobbies roundabout caused by lights and poor lane layout is an example that should educate the planners.

A number of disruptive projects are currently being promoted by the Government and its supporting agencies. An example is HS2 which will damage a large swathe of countryside and have an enormous cost.

At best it will slightly shorten journey times between certain cities. It would be much more sensible to improve the national rail network to somewhere near what it used to be before the Government dismantled it in 1965.

Another example is the proposed pylon to run through Shropshire which will damage the scenery and the outlook of properties.

A more sensible approach would be to lower electricity consumption by reducing waste and stopping the massive and uncontrolled population increase. These are a few of many examples displaying bad judgment.

PETER KEEN
Oswestry

Worry over recycling

THERE was a report on BBC Breakfast that some local authorities are beginning to discipline residents for putting the wrong items in their recycling bins possibly leading to fines.

Where one authority leads others are bound to follow.

If local authorities are going to discipline and fine residents recycling rules should be standardised and residents should be invited on to training courses to learn the necessary skills.

DAVE ADAMS
Oswestry

Message to young smokers – quit

AT the age of 12 in 1946 I started smoking, the in thing, copycatting the film stars of our day cracking open a packet of Fifth Avenue or Lucky Strike. On the other hand, the advert of the sailor smoking Senior Service seemed harmless.

At the age of 18 I was called up for National Service, cigarettes were cheap in the NAAFI. Overseas I was issued 100 free every week, and could puff away till my heart's content, forgetting about my lungs?

In civilian life I smoked Dunhill, not knowing at the time the operative

word should have been Downhill to bad health.

I remember in 1979 after lighting up and inhaling, I thought to myself: "Why am I doing this?". I threw the cigarette on the ground stamped on it and stopped there and then. Initially it was difficult, but the reward was the pleasure of tasting water, and being able to tell the difference between beef and pork and lamb. I put on a little weight, but that soon subsided.

Finally reaching the age of 63 having always enjoyed walking with my dog I noticed cramp and an ache in my

left leg. After several tests, I was informed it had been caused by smoking.

Then my shortness of breath increased. The nurse asked if I had ever been a smoker. I said I'd stopped 44 years ago. "Well, she said, "I am sorry to have to tell you that you have smokers lung." It disturbs me seeing young people puffing away, I feel helpless to warn them. Now approaching 81, I struggle to walk short distances. Listen to someone who knows, do not think this will never happen to you as sooner or later you will discover it has.

DAVE COPPARD, Arddleen

Red Cross volunteers are put to the test



This picture was taken at the annual inspection of Salop Red Cross volunteers at Shrewsbury on Sunday, April 23, 1978. This is the team from Oswestry. They were Mrs Sarah Jones, Mrs Gaynor Leech, Mr Nigel Williams, Mr David Parry, Mr Calvin Cheung and Mrs Pat Jenkins.

Gratitude for bird's joyful song

AFTER a hard day's work in the garden (well, an hour or so) I sat on the bench for a rest and a blackbird perched on the tree beside me and started singing.

I know what the experts say about claiming territory but, listening to that beautiful song, I was convinced it was singing for pure joy.

I sat without moving, looking at the countryside and thinking how fortunate we are to live in such a peaceful part of the world. Then for some reason my thoughts turned to the millions who live in fear, poverty and starvation in other parts of the world. What is progress and will we ever achieve a balance between the haves and the have nots?

TERRY HILLIER
Four Crosses

LETTERS to the Editor		
POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford, TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestry chronicle.co.uk
Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters		

Thousands took part by walking to school

LIVING Streets' Walk to School Week is over for another year and we'd like to thank everyone who took part.

Around 6,000 pupils from primary schools in Shropshire took part in this year's Walk to School Week from May 19-23 which is part of Living Streets' National Walking Month, and showed how beneficial walking to school can be for children, parents and the wider community.

Local authorities and schools can help parents and children walk to school all year round by signing up for Living Streets' Walk once a Week (WoW) scheme, which has been running since 2005. Today, it encourages more than 450,000 children to get walking across the UK.

For more information visit: www.livingstreets.org.uk
TONY ARMSTRONG
Living Streets

Heroes on other fronts than D-Day

WHILST I have every admiration and respect for all who took part in Operation Overlord, and the following battles through Northern Europe, we as a nation tend to overlook the fact that thousands of others had been in the thick of the fighting since 1939.

My father had been in North Africa since 1942 and Italy since 1943, and had fought at one of the war's bloodiest battles, Monte Cassino.

Two days before D Day, Rome had also been liberated, but this was completely overshadowed by the events of June 6.

Let us never forget Normandy, but remember all the rest who fought too.

MICK WILBY
Ketley

LETTERS

£50bn is being wasted on HS2

SURELY only a political mind could conceive squandering such a vast sum of money, £50 billion, on a restricted user high speed rail link that will cut the journey time between Birmingham and London to 32 minutes!

How on earth is this claimed saving justified and a boon to the UK economy qualified in this day and age of mobile telephones, e-mails, wifi, computer links and satellite communication? Never mind the needless desecration of acres of countryside with the adverse impact on wildlife and farming.

How many folk are to be given their marching orders from their homes? So much for an Englishman's home is his castle.

Maybe someone can explain to the minds behind this foolish endeavour that £50 billion would have greater beneficial effect if used to enhance the existing rail network whereby everybody benefits.

Now that would be a boon to the economy, and it is not rocket science to perceive this sensible choice.

Therefore let us hope common sense will prevail and HS2 will be scrapped – let us hope the electorate wake up to the power they hold, and thus demonstrate their feelings of our myopic and incompetent politicians in the General Election.

DAVE HASKELL
Cardigan

Spotlight on heart

HEART Rhythm week was staged last week and the January 2014, draft NICE AF guideline on the management of AF will come as welcome news.

The draft guidelines recommends: Early detections and opportunistic screening. Patient education and access to information and discussion so that undiagnosed AF is revealed.

Referral to an AF specialist if therapy has not made a difference in four weeks.

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is the most common heart rhythm disorder, with 1.2 million suffers in Britain.

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Wifi hotspot is a hit at market

THE use of wifi at Oswestry market has doubled since the town council dropped charges for logging on.

Last month a free Wifi spot was launched at the indoor Powis Hall market in the town centre. Previously visitors and traders had had to pay £1 a day for the service.

In April there were 567 uses of the market wifi, but in May that rose to 1,062.

David Clough, markets manager, said: "The free service has encouraged traders to use the internet for the benefit of their businesses and customers now enjoy the market area as a free wifi hotspot."

Historic home now on market

IT has seen civil war, the abolition of slavery, the industrial revolution and two world wars, all from the safety of the Mid Wales countryside.

And now the 17th century farmhouse at Bettws Cedewain, near to Newtown, is preparing to play its part in a new owner's history after being put onto the market for £2.4million.

Highgate was built in 1631 and is full of period features. Included in the sale are the main house, seven cottages, four paddocks, a mill pond and an area of woodland, split into seven lots.

Dancers step up with a £12,000 charity donation

LINE dancers have been putting their best foot forward and have raised over £12,000 for the Midlands Air ambulance in just 12 months.

The money was handed over at a social evening held at St Giles Church Hall in Shrewsbury.

Dance instructor Sandra Speck, of West Felton, runs Dance with Sandra line-dancing classes for over 200 members at various venues across the county and people travel from miles around to take part in her dancing lessons and fun sessions.

One lady more than happy to support the cause was club member Sheila Barnes, aged 69, from Llanfair Caereinion, who was involved in a head-on vehicle collision near Welshpool in 2008 and was rushed to hospital by the Air Ambulance. Sheila said: "If it hadn't been for the helicopter then I simply wouldn't be here today. I spent 16 days in intensive care and the medical staff told me that my prompt rescue from the incident had literally saved my life. I am very lucky to be alive and also able to enjoy my dancing, so now I do all I can to help the charity as I am so much in their debt."

Events staged in the past

by Graham Breeze

year included a sponsored dance session and an all day dance marathon, which together with raffles and individual donations raised the large amount of money.

Sandra said: "My classes have now been going for more than 10 years and during that time we have raised over £58,000, including £44,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance, since 2009.

"This charity is close to so many people's hearts and they do tend to give generously as they usually know somebody who has benefited from this essential emergency service within the community."

MAA fundraising manager Maria Jones said: "This really is a fantastic amount of money and we are extremely grateful to Sandra and her supportive dancing members."



Sandra Speck (left) of Dance with Sandra and Maria Jones from Midlands Air Ambulance at the cheque handover.

Contract awarded for care facilities

AN award winning construction company has been announced as the contractor for two multi-million pound care developments.

Anwyl Construction will build a £5.5 million extra care facility at Severnside in Newtown for Wales & West Housing.

And the firm will also construct a £4 million 56-bed dementia centre at Chirk for the Pennaf Housing Group.

The Newtown project will provide 48 apartments, 38 of them extra care.

Anwyl director Tom Anwyl, said: "We are delighted to be able to announce that we have secured this work for such prestigious clients and for such major builds.

"This is important not just for us but also for the building industry and the local economy. We do have a commitment to using local labour and local supply chains and this ensures that the value of these contracts goes to the local community.

"In any contract approximately 80 per cent of the money goes on wages and with virtually all the workforce recruited locally that means a massive boost to local economies."

Anwyl recently saw the opening of a £8.5 million extra care centre for Wales & West Housing in Mold.

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Library cards are given to children

LIBRARY cards will be given to every child in Wales in a bid to increase literacy levels, it has been announced.

Powys County Council is among the first local authorities to introduce the scheme and will now present a library card to every primary school child in the county.

Councillor Graham Brown, cabinet member responsible for libraries, said: "More than 42,000 Welsh children took part in last year's summer reading challenge which ran in 245 libraries across the country.

"Children that took part maintained or improved their reading levels and libraries across Wales are hoping to build on this by giving every child the opportunity to use their library."

Dr Rhys Jones, best known for his BBC series Rhys to the Rescue, added: "Libraries are such an important resource - they are a great place for children to let their imagination grow and to develop and it is vitally important that we encourage our children to read more not only to improve their literacy levels but also to help them with life skills and future opportunities."

The project also complements the Welsh Government's "Make Time to Read" campaign.

Praise for primary school in Estyn inspector's report

THE headteacher of a village primary school has praised his staff and pupils after the school received good marks across the board in its latest Estyn inspection.

Llansantffraid Church in Wales School was visited by a team of inspectors in March. Susan Davies, the lead inspector, praised the schools approach to lesson planning, which sees the pupils being involved in making choices about what they would like to find out and how they learn.

In the report Mrs Davies also praised the work the pupils did to raise money for charity and the link the school has with another school in Uganda, as well as its links with the local community.

She said: "Pupils regularly provide a community lunch for local residents, which enriches the curriculum and raises pupils' self-esteem and social skills.

"The pond area is well used and the school makes good use of community resources, such as the nearby football pitch for their sports days. Pupils benefit from the use of the village community hall for PE lessons, and frequent visits to the local church develop

by Pam Kingsley

pupils' moral and spiritual development well.

"The wide range of learning resources contributes well towards establishing a supportive and motivating learning environment for pupils. In view of the good standards and quality of provision, the school provides good value for money."

Headteacher Gareth Hughes said: "As a school, we are delighted that Estyn have recognised us as being a 'good' school in all areas. This is down to the hard work of all members of the school community."

The inspectors gave the school a list of recommendations to improve its performance, including working on handwriting and presentation skills and suggested teachers should get involved more in learning communities to see what other schools were doing well.

School opens grounds for clear-up



Mr N Bateman, Mrs P Williams, Hattie Leslie-Miller and Sebastian Sobanski

THESE hardy volunteers can't be accused of not pulling their weight - they were among scores of people who took part at a big spring clean at a primary school.

The gates to Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic School in Oswestry were thrown open to families to tackle a number of projects around the grounds and buildings.

Teachers and governors also got in on the act, taking on weeding in the gardens, repairing and dismantling old furniture and tidying up the school pond. The tasks prioritised during the clean up were set by a number of groups at the school, including the Eco Club and School Council.

Claire Priest-Jones, headteacher at the school on Upper Brook Street, said the day was a huge success.

She said: "We are delighted so many people gave up their time to help us."

The school has also made a sponsorship deal with a pub in the town.

NEWS in brief

Castle to open garden for charity

CHIRK Castle will be opening its gardens this Saturday for charity.

The gardens, which are a mix of formal rose gardens, yew topiary and informal rare trees and ponds, are in their peak at this time of year and offer good views of Shropshire and Cheshire.

The castle is opening the gardens in association with the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) and the National Trust.

Set up in 1927, the NGS encourages the opening of private gardens to the public for a fee, the proceeds of which are donated to various charities in the care sector.

Heritage site art project meet-up

ARTISTS are to work with people who use the Llangollen Canal in a project to brighten up part of the 11 mile length that makes up the World Heritage Site.

After commissioning a team of artists to brighten up the route from Wimbourn Gate to Trevor Wharf, the Aqueducts - Friends of the Canal - and Wrexham County Borough Council are now asking for ideas.

Interested people can join the artists on Saturday, from 10am until noon at Glyn Wylfa in Church and from 2-4pm at Plas Newydd in Llangollen.

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The Red Arrows arrive at Welshpool



Alun Williams, from Myddle, with his 1936 Albion



Jack Morris, three, from Montgomery and Poppy Woodhouse, four, on the go karts



The Red Arrows performing their routine to delighted crowds

A soaring success

THOUSANDS of people turned out for an air show spectacular in Welshpool at the weekend.

More than 7,000 visitors attended the Bob Jones Memorial Air Show at Welshpool Airport on Sunday, although one member of the organising committee thought that figure was a very conservative estimate.

However, what was not in dispute was the fact the show became so popular that by mid-afternoon organisers had to declare the site full.

"It's been very, very busy," said Robert Robinson, the show's secretary and finance officer.

by Andrew Owen

"The air show itself has been great. A lot of people have been. More than we were expecting. "At around 2pm we had to close the gates and say no more cars."

The free double decker bus bringing people to the airport from the town centre was also stopped when the showground became too busy. At one point the there were queues of traffic back to the town's livestock market.

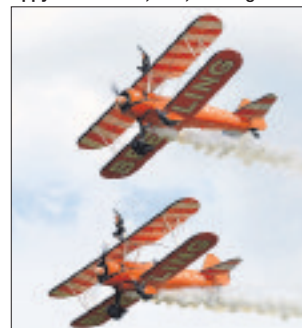
"People have been very, very patient, said Mr Jones, "and we have been very grateful for that." Mr Jones said the event, which is put on by

Welshpool Town Council and the airport, had drawn people from as far afield as Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

"We're delighted", he added. "I've spoken to people out in the field and people seem to be quite impressed with it."

Five hours of displays began at midday with a flypast by The Red Arrows.

The 15 aerial attractions included the country's last flying Vulcan, an RAF Eurofighter Typhoon, a display of wing walking by the Breitling Wing Walkers, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team.



Breitling wing walkers amaze the crowds

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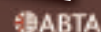
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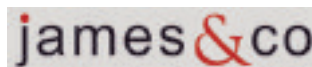
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Students' thank you gift to hospital ward



Hollie Aiston, Laura Jones, Caroline Jones, Amanda Cottrell and Rhys Phillips

STUDENTS have given £500 to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to thank staff for the way they cared for the husband of their head of sixth form.

The sixth formers from Welshpool High School visited Ward 23H to present a cheque to staff.

They hold a charity ball each year and decided to donate the money to the ward in thanks for the care staff gave to Neil Cottrell, whose wife Amanda is head of sixth form at the

by Sue Austin

school. Neil was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and passed away earlier this year aged 57.

Mrs Cottrell, said: "Neil spent 18 weeks in isolation on Ward 23H. The marvellous team made that time the best it could have been, giving excellent medical care but most of all tremendous emotional support, not only for Neil but also to our whole family."

"Neil referred to the team as his second family. Despite the intensive treatment of repeated chemotherapy Neil recalled his time in hospital as a

very positive experience because of his second family.

"Neil was discharged from Shrewsbury on August 26 last year and had a bone marrow transplant in Birmingham in November but sadly died on February 26 this year.

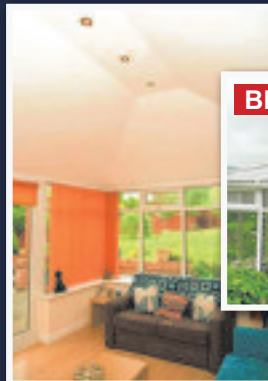
"I'd like to thank all of the students for their brilliant efforts and for thinking of Neil when they decided to make the donation to the ward. It was a lovely and unexpected gesture."

Sister Hollie Aiston, said: "Staff on the ward would like to say a massive thank you to the students for this generous and thoughtful donation."

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NEWS
in briefFinding out about
renewable energy

POULTRY farmers are being invited to see the benefits of renewable energy in a demonstration at a farm in Oswestry.

TGE Group will be hosting a renewables event at 10.30am July 1 to demonstrate the benefits of heat pump installations.

Rupert Higgin, Managing Director of TGE Group, said: "This free event is a fantastic opportunity for people to come and see for themselves what opportunities renewables offer. We will have experts on hand to answer questions and attendees can also see first-hand the technology. Register at energy@tge-group.co.uk or call 0845 643 2528.

Vacancies are
on the increase

JOB vacancies across Wales have seen a 14 per cent increase over the past two years, new research shows.

The findings, from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills' (UKCES) latest Employer Skills Survey, show that the job market in Wales is on the up, with 3,000 more vacancies available in 2013 compared to 2011.

However, the survey also shows that skills shortage vacancies – vacancies where employers are unable to find a recruit with the right skills – have also risen.

Metalworks open event helped boost business

SKILLED metalworkers put their talents on display at a special open day to showcase their work.

Visitors to Maesbury Metals in Oswestry snapped up the products created at the unit, from sculptures and candle holders to decorative seats, benches and arches.

Maesbury Metals is a Shropshire Council workshop run by adults with learning disabilities and learning difficulties.

And those who attend, some every day say their colleagues, are more like an extended family.

Peter Phillips, for Maesbury Metals, said the open day had been a great success.

"We wanted to let people know where we are and the type of products we produce," he said.

"We didn't know how many people would come along – were have been amazed at the number who turned up.

"We design the pieces that we make and put them together using various tools."

He said that a decorative archway made specially for the open day was a favourite of his along with metalwork trees that can be placed inside or out.

Ben Walton was delighted

by Sue Austin

by the amount of items people had bought. "People can come to the unit at any time and see what we have for sale," he said.

Thanking everyone for going along to the open day, Gavin Ryan, said: "We work together and we even go to the pub together. We are more like a family."

Recently funding from the Oswestry Local Joint Committee was used to buy new equipment, a laser cutting machine and a forge.

Among those at the open day was leader of Shropshire Council, Councillor Keith Barrow, who bought a metalwork bench for his garden.

"The items they make here at Maesbury Metals are fantastic," he said. "It is a brilliant place. They are producing some wonderful products and I would recommend that people pop in and see what there is."

Pharmacy delighted to hit milestone



Staff at The Pharmacy @ Caxton in Oswald Road

AN Oswestry pharmacy is celebrating its three year anniversary and dispensing around half a million prescriptions.

The Pharmacy@Caxton in Oswestry has issued the prescriptions to about 20,000 patients since it opened on May

31 2011 – and has taken on more staff this year to cope with demand.

The pharmacy works with the three surgeries in Oswestry as well as surgeries in Chirk, Knockin, Four Crosses and Welshpool and Shrewsbury. John Gentle, the superintendent

pharmacist, said: "We are very proud to reach this milestone. We have seen a huge number of patients and customers and we are still growing, the number of prescriptions we issue is continuing to increase by more than 10 per cent year on year."

Councils to talk about planning for homes

OSWESTRY Town Council has offered to host a meeting between Shropshire Council and developers in an bid to agree more housing land for the town.

It is hoped the discussion would ease pressure on the two councils to find sites for new homes, and see controversial sites removed from Shropshire Council's development blueprint.

It follows a letter by resident Kate Clarke, who said talks could lead to a "a more positive outcome" on housing allocations.

Her letter followed a row over plans for 117 homes at Whittington Road, near the town's Iron Age hillfort.

She wrote: "I presume that Shropshire Council would be only too keen to look at a better resolution, given that the might of opposition to building by the hillfort and national exposure will only escalate as public enquiry approaches. There is an opening in all of this for parties to negotiate a much more favourable resolution of housing delivery."

Members of Oswestry Town Council discussed Ms Clarke's suggestion and decided to follow up on some of her suggestions.

David Preston, Town Council clerk, said: "The council agreed to forward a copy of Ms Clarke's letter to Shropshire Council."

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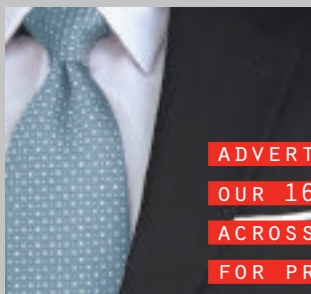
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Watchdog praises Shropdoc service

SHROPDOC an out of hours medical service provides an outstanding service the Care Quality Commission has found.

Shropdoc underwent a comprehensive inspection by the Quality Care Commission (CQC) in March this year which looked at five key areas – safety and effectiveness and whether the service is caring, well led and responsive.

Shropdoc, which provides urgent services when GP surgeries are closed to patients in Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Powys, got an "outstanding" verdict in all of the areas.

Dr Gill Clements, medical director of Shropdoc, said she was delighted.

She said: "We are extremely pleased that we have excelled in each of the areas of the inspection. The continued success of the organisation is down to our hard working and dedicated staff and we thank them for all of their efforts."

Included in the summary of the report, which was published on May 28, was praised for the "effective care to a wide range of patient groups with differing levels of need, often with limited information available to clinicians."

Innovation workshop helps firms move forward

BUSINESSES were encouraged to have their own Eureka moment at an innovation workshop in Oswestry.

The "Innovation: common sense but not common practice" event, organised by the University of Wolverhampton in partnership with Shropshire Council, was hosted at Castle View offices in Oswestry on Friday. Businesses across Shropshire, Herefordshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire used the workshop to find out how they could innovate and take their business forward.

The breakfast workshop was free and aimed at small and medium enterprises that supply goods and services mainly to other businesses.

Business owners heard from Helen Hunter-Hayes, project manager of the European-wide Eureka! Moment programme.

Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, the programme is aimed at enterprises from micro-businesses to those employing fewer than 250 staff, and designed to encourage business growth and innovation.

The workshop was designed to help owners and managers think differently about their business, be more competitive in their market, and win and keep new customers.

by Iain St John

Following the workshop, firms were able to benefit from a free business performance review by the University of Wolverhampton.

Fifteen businesses attended the event.

Ten requested an audit, and dates for two of these have already been arranged.

Other speakers included Alan Ward, Director of Innovation School Limited, who looked at how small changes can make an impact on business performance.

Shropshire Council leader Keith Barrow said: "As a council we are always looking for ways to support and enable local businesses to grow, perform well and become more competitive and to satisfy the changing needs of customers."

The presentations were filmed by local company, Stone's Throw Media, and will be available online.

Training aims to prepare jobseekers



Mike McKay of McKay Training

MIKE McKay has over 40 years' experience in training.

During the last decade with Deeside College he has provided health and safety, fire safety, food safety, manual handling and forklift training to industry, pubs, hotels, restaurants, retail, food and drink manufacturers, care homes and schools.

McKay Training research shows that many local unemployed people have no qualifications to get them to the job interview stage.

McKay Training provides the initiative for the individual to have the right skills, experience and knowledge to be job ready for vacancies or promotion in local companies.

Mike said: "Our aim is to level the playing field by increasing the size of the pool of local people who are ready and willing to step straight on to the job and make a positive impact."

Visit www.mckaytraining.co.uk

NEWS in brief

£1m spent on fast broadband

MORE than £1 million is being spent on rolling out superfast broadband to areas across Powys.

The Welsh Government has invested over £14 million in improving broadband in North and Mid Wales over the last three years.

Since the Superfast Cymru programme began in January 2013, 135,000 premises across Wales have been given access to fast fibre broadband.

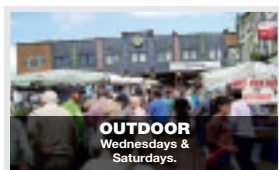
In addition funding is available for enterprises, residents, third sector organisations and communities which cannot achieve broadband speeds of greater than 2Mbps.

Catering company wins high praise

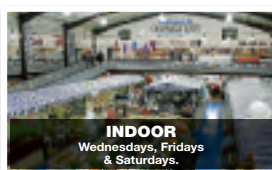
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Comfort and technology figures high with new 500

The new Fiat 500 has gone on sale in the UK with important new style, comfort and technological enhancements.

A key new feature is the segment-first seven-inch TFT digital instrument display, developed in collaboration with Magneti Marelli, which seamlessly combines cutting-edge technology without disrupting the trademark aesthetics of the cabin. Standard on 500S

and Cult models (and optional on Lounge versions), the layout and execution of the speedometer, rev counter and trip computer will be familiar to anyone who has driven the current FIAT 500, but the centre of the display – which contains a digital image of the car – can be configured to show various trip computer readouts.

The new TFT instrument cluster also allows for a more prominent gear shift indicator, highly visible warning messages and more detailed media

player, telephone and navigation information readouts, including junction graphics and real-time traffic updates when equipped with a portable Tom-Tom 2 Live satellite navigation system. As a final touch, the TFT screen reconfigures when the Sport button is activated on models equipped with 105hp 0.9 TwinAir Turbo engine.

The 'eco' gauge, which measures how efficiently the driver is performing in real time.

The 2014 Fiat 500 is available to test drive. For more information visit www.fiatpress.co.uk and www.fiat.co.uk



Payment plan on Fiat range

Kids aren't the only ones who get to enjoy a long vacation this summer.

Grown-ups also get a nice breather during the Fiat June sales event which is offering a zero deposit finance package with a three-month repayment holiday on any FIAT 500L, 500L MPW or 500L Trekking model.

For a strictly limited period of three weeks from June 3 to June 24, Fiat is introducing additional deposit contri-

bution for finance customers across the Fiat 500L range, with an extra £900 deposit contribution available on petrol models and an additional £600 on diesel versions.

In the case of Fiat 500L 1.4 95hp Pop Star, for example, this initiative is in addition to the £500 savings already on offer, resulting in a total deposit contribution to the customer of £1,400. With no deposit and no repayments for the first three months, the remaining 44 repayments would be just £219 (Representative 2.0 per cent

APR) with an optional final repayment of £4,703.

Alternatively, customers also have the option of forgoing the repayment holiday and instead lowering their monthly payments, resulting in a deposit of just £199 and 47 repayments of £199 for the Fiat 500L 1.4 Pop Star (plus £4,703 optional final repayment).

The customers savings on offer during the Fiat June sales event are available on many Fiat 500L models and are open to all retail customers subject to certain terms and conditions.

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Style trial for modest price

By Sharon Walters

Peugeot's 208 Style offers a few extras over the Active model for a modest markup.

The 208 Style takes the Active trim level and adds a panoramic glass roof, sat nav, parking sensors, a leather-trimmed steering wheel, chrome door mirrors, and better upholstery, charging you an additional £750 for the privilege. Together, that lot would tot up to around £1,500 if ordered separately.

Peugeot is renowned as a maker of great small cars. In recent years, that reputation went through the wringer somewhat, but with the 208 the French company is back to form. Here is a supermini that barely puts a foot wrong. It's well-built, it looks good inside and out, it drives well and it makes all the right numbers if we're talking economy and emissions. In other words, it really doesn't need a great deal of remedial work or that much of a big promotional push.

It seems that Peugeot just can't help itself though and has announced a special edition version of the 208. The Style trim level is based on the popular Active version and adds a few useful extras for a reasonable premium. It's not a particularly novel way of drumming up new business, but most buyers aren't going to be too worried about that.

The Style is offered with a trio of engines. Customers choose from either the PureTech 1.2-litre VTI petrol engine or should they prefer a diesel powerplant, there's the

1.4-litre HDI or the 1.6-litre e-HDI Stop & Start engines.

Whichever version you choose, you get a platform that has benefited from a crash diet. Peugeot has pared around 110kg off the weight of equivalent 207 models which is a huge advantage in a car so compact. As well as improving economy and emissions, cutting weight improves acceleration, braking and agility – all traditional Peugeot supermini totems. The 1.2-litre model tips the scales at 975kg, which is less than a Lotus Exige S. Let that one sink in for a moment.

The cabin is a big step ahead too and there's some novel thinking afoot. Rather than peer through the steering wheel at the gauges, Peugeot has instead made the wheel smaller and lower so that drivers will be able to look over it for an unobstructed view of the main instrument binnacle. Higher quality finishes and a very neat infotainment system feature, while both three and five door models offer plenty more occupant space. Not only do rear seat occupants get 5cm more knee room, they do so in a car that is 7cm shorter and 1cm lower than the old 207. That increased passenger space doesn't come at the expense of luggage capacity either, with the 208 offering an additional 1.5 cubic litres in which to stow your gear.

So what do you get for the extra £750 this Style model costs over a base 'Active'-trimmed 208? Quite a bit as it happens. If you specified the satellite navigation system on its own onto an Active model, that would account for £400 straight



“It's stylish, it's elegant and it's French in a good way, not French in a 'wonder what bits are about to snap?' way”

off the bat, leaving you £350 to purchase a panoramic glass roof, parking sensors, a leather-trimmed steering wheel, chrome door mirrors and better upholstery. Best of luck with that one.

Together, Peugeot tots that lot up to £1,500, so if you were planning to tick the sat nav box and one of either the parking sensors or the glass roof (or indeed both), you're better off choosing the Style version. That's on top of equipment like 15-inch alloy wheels, the multifunction colour touchscreen, Bluetooth and USB connec-

tivity and a split rear bench for added versatility.

In truth, this Style version of the Peugeot 208 doesn't break much in the way of new ground, but then it didn't really need to. The 208 is a brilliant small hatch and is right up there with the class best. What's more, it feels like a car that's confident in its own skin, that once again expresses Peugeot's brand values. It's stylish, it's elegant and it's French in a good way, not French in a 'wonder what bits are about to snap?' way.



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PureTech Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km) for the **208 Style Range** are: Urban 51.4 – 67.3 (5.5 – 4.2), Extra Urban 72.4 – 85.6 (3.9 – 3.3), Combined 62.8 – 78.5 (4.5 – 3.6) and CO₂ 104 – 95 (g/km).

MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Model shown is a 208 Style 1.2 VTI 82 puretech with metallic paint 3 door. Terms and conditions apply, participating dealers only or visit www.peugeot.co.uk. To finance your lease/purchase we may introduce you to a limited number of lenders. **#Passport Personal Lease:** A guarantee may be required. Over 18's only. Written quotations available on request from Peugeot Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill RH1 1QA. 208 Style 1.2 VTI 82 Puretech with metallic paint 3 door, customer initial payment £2,663, £500 Peugeot initial payment contribution, optional final payment £5,092. 46 monthly payments payable. Annual mileage 6,000 miles. If you choose to pay the optional final payment, you can pay an annual payment equivalent to one of your monthly payments but will not own the car. Excess mileage charges may apply. Ownership is possible with Passport - ask us for details. Offer available on cars ordered by 30th June 2014. Calls may be recorded for training purposes. Information correct at time of going to press.

Look at what lies beneath

By Anthony Martyn

Skoda's assured quiet competence hasn't come about by accident; it has a lot to do with its position in the Volkswagen Group hierarchy.

It would be difficult to produce a sub-standard product with the technology that's circulated within the Volkswagen conglomerate today but modern Skodas can't shout too loudly about their qualities without the risk of pinching sales from the other VW brands.

SEAT is sporty, Volkswagen is classy and that leaves Skoda to sell practical cars at sensible prices and not make a fuss. It's a role it fills rather well and if you can do without the fluff, the latest facelifted Fabia could be the supermini for you.

In the past, the Fabia has been powered by some elderly engines that were well past their best but the latest line-up has the glossy sheen of the new about it.

Yes, the 60bhp and 70bhp 1.2-litre units at the base of the range are nothing special but buyers with the means to rise above those really do get some choice technology. The 1.2 TSI engine is a compact turbocharged petrol unit that's available in 85bhp and 105bhp forms. It's lightweight and produces strong economy with the performance you'd expect from a larger unit. The diesel option is in a similarly high league with common-rail fuel injection and a diesel particulate filter. It produces 90bhp with its 1.6-litre capacity.

Exclusively

All of which leaves the 1.4-litre engine that powers the Fabia vRS. It's arguably the most advanced of the lot with a turbocharger and a supercharger helping it to 178bhp. Performance is brisk in this hot Fabia with a 0-60mph time of 7.3 seconds and a 140mph top speed.

The vRS is available exclusively with the seven-speed DSG twin-clutch gearbox which works as an automatic or a slick paddle-shift manual. The same gearbox is available with the 105bhp 1.2-TSI engine but a five-speed manual is standard.

Oscar Wilde said the only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about but Skoda might disagree. The days when the Czech manufacturer was the laughing stock of the automotive world have long since passed and under Volkswagen's stewardship, it's settled into a cosy little niche. It doesn't garner many headlines and no longer warrants a mention on the comedy circuit but the cars are good and low-key seems to be serving Skoda very nicely.

True to recent form, the latest Fabia supermini isn't one of today's most talked about cars

and it certainly draws precious few complaints.

There's a good amount of space inside the Fabia, particularly for rear seat passengers. The materials aren't quite up to the standards set in Volkswagen products but the similarities in the design are easy to spot and the same robust build quality can be seen throughout.

Inside and out, the Fabia's design keeps it simple, which is a big part of the car's appeal.

Boot capacity stands at an impressive 300 litres with the seats in place or a massive 1,163 litres when they're folded. In the estate, the extended dimensions have helped Skoda engineers achieve a 480-litre boot capacity with the seats up.



Fold the 60/40 split rear seats flat (a less than straightforward operation that involves removing the headrests) and there's an Albert Hall-esque 1,460 litres.

Despite the success of the Fabia, Skoda still recognises the limits of its badge equity and its place within the hierarchy of the Volkswagen Group. As a result, the Fabia is priced realistically, but Skoda is emphasising the quality and technology in the package.

Equipment levels were never the Fabia's strong point, relying instead on solid no-nonsense build quality. This time round there are items like electronically-controlled Climatronic air-conditioning and an MP3/iPod compatible stereo, but if you go to your Skoda dealer expecting to be granted a view of the state-of-the-art in small car electronics, you're likely to be disappointed.

These days, Skoda is a car brand which demands to be taken seriously. With the might of the Volkswagen Group in the background, it has access to some of the finest vehicle platforms and technologies going, many of which are showcased on the latest Skoda Fabia supermini.

This isn't a car which makes a song and dance about its qualities, but look beneath the unassuming surface and there's a highly accomplished package that's only made more appealing by the price.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Octavia Range: Urban 34.9 (8.1) to 74.3 (3.8), Extra Urban 52.3 (5.4) to 94.2 (3.0), Combined 44.1 (6.4) to 88.3 (3.2). CO₂ emissions 149 to 85g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.



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Eco boost for Kuga

By David Banner

Ford's first Kuga was a success in this country but the second generation model has far bigger aspirations.

The first problem with the first generation Ford Kuga wasn't that difficult to identify. It was just too small. For the amount of money you were paying, which was upwards of £21,000, you weren't getting a whole lot of metal for your money. The second issue was the lack of a credible petrol-engined option. All MK1 Kuga buyers were offered was the thirsty 2.5-litre five cylinder petrol engine.

Still, at least Ford's development team found it quite easy to see what to do with the second generation car. Make it much like the first, but with more space and a sustainable petrol-engined option. Which is exactly what we've got.

The few Kuga customers who decide against the couple of 2.0-litre TDCi diesel on offer get to choose from two 1.6-litre turbocharged EcoBoost petrol units rated at either 150 or 180PS, both managing the same torque figure of 240Nm. The entry-level petrol model is available in front-wheel drive guise with a manual gearbox, but the 177bhp version is sold exclusively as an all-wheel drive chassis with the Powershift automatic gearbox.

All Kuga models get a quick and well-weighted electrically assisted steering system, although the strong self-centring action takes a little getting used to.

The extra 81mm of length and some clever packaging solutions mean that this Kuga is properly spacious for four or five passengers.

As you might expect, petrol power is the cheapest way into Kuga ownership. The entry-level 150PS unit mated with 2WD costs around £21,000 – about £1,500 less than the comparable diesel. Petrol buyers do get the option of AWD and auto transmission, but it only comes packaged up with the pokier 180PS version of the EcoBoost engine at a £2,700 premium that many of them won't want to pay.

Thatcham

Standard kit across the range runs to alloy wheels, day-time running lights, front foglights, a Quickclear heated windscreen, powered heated mirrors, a Thatcham Category 1 alarm, decent quality 6-speaker CD stereo system, air conditioning, cruise control and a hill start assist system to stop you from drifting backwards on uphill junctions...

For me, a must-have feature is the clever Ford SYNC system with Emergency Assistance. This connects with MP3 players, Bluetooth-enabled phones and USB drives and allows you to receive audible text messages. Better still, should you be involved in an accident, the system will automatically call the emergency services in the language of whatever country you're in and give them your exact GPS location.

Talking of safety, this car gets ISOFIX childseat fastenings and a full tally of seven airbags – twin front, side and curtain bags, as well as a driver's knee bag. Plus all the usual electronic assistance for traction and stability control to hopefully ensure that you'll never have to use them.

You wouldn't expect Ford's second generation Kuga to be anything other than bigger and faster than before, while at the same time offering better emissions, economy and improved residual values to boot. It's the sort of magic trick we just expect manufacturers to be able to pull off these days and one that, once again has been managed here thanks to ECONetic Ford features like smart regenerative charging (that reclaims energy that would otherwise be lost under braking) and an Active Grille Shutter (that reduces drag and cuts fuel consumption). As a result, this Kuga's all-turbo-charged engine line-up now manages to return efficiency running cost figures far better than those of rivals.

The Ford Kuga does enough to appeal right now. It's good-looking, spacious, well-priced and drives very well. It's a little different in its emphasis than before, feeling a bit more grown-up than its predecessor and riding a whole lot better.

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Ka Zetec	£10545	£9480	£1065	£1453
Ka Edge	£ 9795	£8695	£1100	£1196
Fiesta Style 3dr 60 PS	£11695	£10250	£1445	£750
Fiesta Zetec 3dr 1.0 80PS	£13445	£12000	£1445	£750
Fiesta Zetec 3dr 1.25 82PS	£13545	£12250	£1295	£750
Fiesta Zetec 5dr 1.0 80PS	£13995	£12645	£1300	£750
Fiesta Zetec 5dr 1.0 100PS	£14495	£13175	£1370	£750
Fiesta Zetec Econetic 1.6 TDCi	£15945	£14495	£1500	£750
Fiesta Zetec S 1.0 125 PS, All with 17" Alloys, DAB Sync, Spare Wheel and Privacy glass in price (Zetec s only)	£16195	£14770	£1425	£750

MODEL	LIST PRICE	FROM	SAVE	DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION
Fiesta ST 3, Race red and Molten orange in stock - Very Limited stock in Country				
Focus Studio 1.6 85ps	£13995	£13395	£600	£1950
Focus Zetec 1.0 100PS 5dr, Appearance pk	£17595	£16045	£1550	£2233
Focus Zetec Nav 125PS 5dr, Appearance pk	£18845	£17244	£1601	£2402
B max Zetec 1.4 5dr	£14795	£12995	£1800	£750
B max Titanium 1.0 100PS, keyless entry & start	£16595	£14995	£1600	£750
Kuga Titanium 2.0 tdc 2WD 140 PS, Appearance Pk	£24405	£22620	£1785	£1500
Kuga Titanium X 2.0 tdc 1, 163PS AWD, Appearance pk	£28795	£26905	£1890	£1500
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Furrows Kia

Soul plays by different rules

By Ian Donaldson

Just about every road test you ever read comes loaded with figures to help set the scene against the opposition, telling you about things like speed, size and fuel consumption.

And this stack of stats is helpful, especially if you're making your choice of wheels on purely sensible grounds. Which we tell ourselves we are, of course.

But some cars want to play by different rules. They ask the heart to rule the head, pushing mere figures to one side and letting emotion take the high road.

Take the latest version of Kia's Soul, one of the world's more distinctive looking cars and a shape that's been a sales hit in the States and China in its earlier guise and a steady seller here.

Now comes the second edition, with a new chassis underneath and a body that's clearly an all-over reworking of version one but a bit longer, wider and lower.

Roomier inside for people, with more luggage space and a newly grown-up feel to finish and style, but still with enough of a couture feel to make it a bit special, especially in a car that costs from a modest £12,600.

Around 3,000 people a year are expected to buy into the new Soul's appeal in the

'Around 3,000 people a year are expected to buy into the new Soul's appeal in the UK'

UK. That's about what the old model sold too and will add more to the Kia marque's visibility on the road than it does to bottom line sales figures.

It's a shape you'll either love or loathe. To my eyes the new Soul has a thought-through smoothness of line lacking in the earlier car but manages to stay looking like nothing else on the road.

That will likely be enough to snare plenty of buyers to the brand.

The same two 1.6-litre petrol or diesel engines are offered in the new range and both suffer a bit by having to drag around a bigger car. Not enough to notice on the road but the figures have moved gently in the wrong direction.

So, the diesel (likely to be the bigger seller, from £16,400) is a little bit slower, uses a bit more fuel and has tailpipe emissions

which mean you'll now pay £125 road tax in the first year, rather than none.

Happily, for a Soul buyer, such details won't count for much against the pleasures of owning a stand-out machine. And happily the car drives well enough for the small print to fade into the background.

It feels a properly grown-up machine, with a comfortable driving position, clear and logical dashboard and a smoothness about the clutch and gearchange which tell of long hours getting things right before signing the car off.

Comfortable

It's no ball of fire but there's more than enough performance and a ride sufficiently comfortable to render the worst of a modern British A-road a distant tremor.

A trip computer reading of 46mpg after a generous selection of town and country hill work was a promising result and usefully better than the 34mpg recorded in a shorter drive of the petrol-powered new Soul.

There are three trim levels at present with two more at the top end (Mixx and Maxxi) on the way later with mainly cosmetic changes.

The current top of the range Connect Plus lacks for little and has a fine eight-speaker sound system (Soul music?) and the clearest satellite navigation system you could wish for, along with 17in alloy wheels, automatic air conditioning, cruise control and reversing sensors.



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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the vehicles shown are Highest: KIA New Soul 'Mixx' 1.6 GDI, M5: Urban 31.0 (9.1), Extra Urban 44.8 (6.3), Combined 38.7 (7.3). CO₂ emissions are 170 g/km. Lowest: KIA Picanto 3-door '1' 1.0 68bhp, M5: Urban 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 67.3 (4.2). CO₂ emissions are 99 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year/100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price and specification is subject to change without notice. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Ask your dealer for full details. 13 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. Log onto kia.co.uk/care3 for full details. Subject to availability on vehicles registered before 30 June 2014. Participating dealers only. *4.9% APR representative available on Kia Conditional Sale on Picanto, Rio and cee'd models. 10% minimum deposit required on cee'd models. Maximum term of 36 months. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer. Correct at time of going to press, E80E.



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Diesel auto widens appeal

By Graham Breeze

THE Outback was Subaru's first model in the 'crossover' sector and now the most recent make-over has seen the arrival of an impressive diesel automatic.

The most significant change is the introduction of a new powertrain pairing, with the 2.0-litre Boxer diesel engine teamed up for the first time with a Lineatronic CVT.

The combination of the automatic transmission system and the Boxer diesel unit has widened the vehicle's appeal with a better drive, improved fuel economy and lower emissions.

But Subaru has gone even further than that with a new look both inside and out, revised suspension and an improved version of the company's Vehicle Dynamic Control.



All in all, the Outback is now an impressive package and a far cry from the Subaru of old. The model combines comfort, interior space and improved handling with the off-road capability and ground clearance of a sports utility vehicle.

With the new engine and gearbox combination, the Outback will return 44.8 mpg and 166g/km CO2 on the combined cycle.

The latest model features body-coloured cladding in place of the previous black plastic. Buyers now have a wider range of colours to choose from while larger fog lamps and the addition of a gloss black finish to the front headlamps give the car greater road presence than before. The alloy wheels now have a gunmetal finish as standard.

Clearer

The upgraded cabin features clearer instrumentation, including the addition of a liquid crystal instrument cluster display and new materials for a number of dashboard elements. Black metallic panels bring about a modern appearance while instruments within the cockpit have been moved to improve user-friendliness.

Front and rear suspension changes have meant a stable ride and increased comfort while double-wishbone rear suspension is compact enough to give buyers a 526-litre luggage area even with the with the rear seats upright.

Ground clearance is an important factor for buyers in this market and the Outback scores well with 200mm, meaning off-roading can be both fun and practical at the same time.

Subaru's all-wheel drive system features on all Outback models. For those equipped



'The upgraded cabin features clearer instrumentation, including the addition of a liquid crystal instrument cluster'

with a manual transmission, the AWD technology is accompanied by Active Torque Split, and for those with the Lineatronic CVT it is coupled with a centre differential with viscous limited slip differential.

Silver roof rails and a roof spoiler along with a power-sliding glass sunroof make the Outback stand out in the crowd and self-levelling automatic HID headlamps and rain sensing wipers are an unexpected bonus.

Further highlights include front fog lights, pop-up headlight washers, heated mirrors, rear window defogger with timer, front and side window defrosters, and a windscreen wiper de-icer function.

Audio and cruise control functions are present on the leather-trimmed steering wheel, while new sports seats at the front are heated to provide extra comfort when the weather turns cold.

New speedometer and rev counter dials feature in the upgraded instrument binnacle, while a one-touch lane-change facility has also been added which activates the indicators to flash three times.

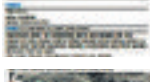
Additional features of leather interior and satellite navigation are available as dealer-fit options.

On the road the Outback 2.0D Lineatronic will set you back £31,495 but you get a lot of vehicle for the price.

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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Immaculate four-bed house well placed for town centre

A superbly appointed detached house convenient for Oswestry town centre is on sale for offers around £199,950. The spacious accommodation at 86 Balmoral Crescent includes an entrance hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, utility area, four excellent bedrooms, family bathroom and en-suite shower room. The property also has gas central heating, good-sized rear garden with decking, parking and a single garage. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 to view.

High quality five-bed home in village heart

On sale with no chain, Bumble Oak in Oak Lane is a beautifully presented five-bedroom detached house finished to a superb standard in the heart of Treflach, near Oswestry. Some of its high quality features include oak flooring in the downstairs rooms, luxurious bathrooms and a double garage with electronically operated door. The accommodation comprises a 21ft din-

ing room with open fireplace and stairs to the first floor, a sitting room with multi-fuel stove, study, cloakroom, and large kitchen/breakfast room with granite worktops and a central island. Doors lead to a utility and a living room which in turn has double doors to the rear garden. Upstairs, the master bedroom has built-in wardrobes and an en-suite bath/shower room

in the turret which includes a jacuzzi bath. There are four further bedrooms, three with wardrobes and one with en-suite shower room, and a luxurious bathroom. The property has ample parking and landscaped lawned gardens with a large patio. Priced at £360,000, viewing is highly recommended by the agents - call Town & Country on 01691 679631 to find out more.



Country cottage has consent to build dwelling in grounds

A charming detached cottage in Pant with a building plot and planning consent is on the market with JJ Dell. Inglewood, Briggs Lane, includes a sitting room with fireplace, a breakfast kitchen with range cooker, three bedrooms, bathroom, a private drive, garage, storeroom and a workshop. The substantial plot includes a patio, lawn and terraced garden with far-reaching views, and there is full planning consent to build a detached dwelling in the grounds. The property has a guide price of £350,000. Call JJ Dell on 01681 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk for details.



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Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, June 12, 2014

OSWESTRY

£175,000



NO CHAIN IMMACULATE MODERN THREE STOREY THREE/FOUR BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE LOCATED IN A POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA OF OSWESTRY WITH OFF ROAD PARKING AND GARAGE. Benefitting from gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing throughout. The property is located within easy reach of the town centre and has all local amenities close at hand, whilst being close to all major road networks connecting Chester, Shrewsbury and the Midlands. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the condition, presentation and size of the property.

FORDEN, WELSHPOOL

£345,000



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OSWESTRY

£225,000



NO CHAIN!!!! A DESIRABLE THREE BEDROOM PERIOD PROPERTY IN A SOUGHT AFTER AREA OF OSWESTRY OVERLOOKING BROGYNTYN PARK. The property is well maintained throughout with enclosed private rear garden and boasts many original features. Accommodation briefly comprises - two reception rooms, kitchen/family room, utility room, bathroom, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom and study. **VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE PROPERTY AND THE LOCATION.**

TREFLACH

£299,950



REDUCED BY OVER £25,000!!!!
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LLANFAIR CAEREINION

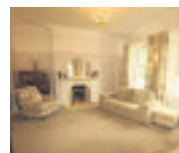
Offers in the region of £109,950



OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN!!! A two/three bedroom semi detached cottage style property. An ideal first time buy or investment in a picturesque village near to Welshpool. There is potential to build on land at the side of the property. Close to local amenities and Welshpool town centre. Briefly comprises: Sitting room, utility area, modern fitted kitchen, two first floor bedrooms, attic bedroom, bathroom, decking to the rear of the property and further parcel of land/garden area approximately 50 metres along from the property. Viewing is recommended.

OSWESTRY

£325,000



We are delighted to introduce Ash Court to the market being an imposing period residence, positioned in the sought after location of Weston Lane, which is close to Oswestry Town centre, whilst being tucked away with rural views. The property has been maintained to a particularly high standard to provide a very comfortable family home, whilst retaining many of its original features, Ash Court has the benefit of double glazed windows and central heating throughout. The garden is a particular feature and overlooks open farmland. **THIS IS A MUST SEE PROPERTY!!!**



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Extended cottage includes three acres of land

On the market at a guide price of £495,000, Willow Brook, The Ridge, near Ellesmere, is an extended cottage with wonderful countryside views and about three acres of paddocks, orchard and gardens. The original part of the house is believed to date from 1490 and has been extended to provide a large family home. A principal feature of the property is its superb use of natural light with a large quantity of glass on one wall. The accommodation includes an entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, circular wine cellar, four bedrooms, two bathrooms and garaging. Call Balfours on 01743 353511 to view.

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Manor house among 20 lots going to auction

A 19th century manor house with 14 acres of land, a detached coach house and range of outbuildings is to be sold at a collective auction in Welshpool next week. In need of major renovation, Maenol, Llangurig Road, Llanidloes, is still lived in by the owners and has a guide price of £350,000. The property is among more than 20 lots going under the hammer at 2pm on Thursday, June 19, at Welshpool Livestock Sales. Other lots include the former Dolfor Primary School near Newtown, with a guide price of £100,000, and Carregdio Lake at Llangurig, guided at £15,000. Call Morris Marshall & Poole on 01686 412567 to find out more.



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Bowen Son and Watson has been selected as the best independent estate agent by Relocation Agent Network to represent them in **Wrexham, Oswestry, Ellesmere, Llangollen and Chirk**

Morda Road Oswestry **NEW**
£150,000

- Spacious 2 Bed Semi-Detached Bungalow
- In a quiet residential location close to town
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Conservatory, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Well maintained gardens to front & rear
- Good size driveway and single garage
- Gas C/H. EPC Rating d

Park Street Close Oswestry **NEW - NO CHAIN**
£129,995

- A well presented Bungalow situated in a quiet location
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Inner Hallway, 2 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Low maintenance garden and ample off-road parking
- Double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Rosehill Drive Whittington **NEW - NO CHAIN**
£179,995

- Deceptively spacious Detached Bungalow
- In a generous plot with views over open countryside
- Lounge, Kitchen, 3 Beds, Conservatory & Bathrm
- Gardens with shed, patio, vegetable plots
- Large driveway together with carport & garage
- D/G and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Monkmoor Road Oswestry **NEW - NO CHAIN**
£175,000

- 3 Bedroom Detached Period Property
- The property has a host of original features
- Lounge/Dining Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- Pantry, Rear Hallway, Utility, 3 Beds & Bathrm
- Large mature gardens, off-road parking
- Garage, greenhouse & garden shed. Oil C/H
- Recently installed timber framed D/G windows. EPC Rating

Monkmoor Road Oswestry **NEW - NO CHAIN**
£132,500

- Spacious 2 Bedroom Link Detached Bungalow
- In a popular residential location
- Ent Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Bed 1
- Bed 2/Dining Room & Bathroom
- Excellent gardens to the front and rear
- Large driveway and integral garage
- Partial secondary glazing & Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Daywell crescent Gobowen **NEW**
£129,950

- Spacious 3 bedroom Semi-Detached property
- Property has been improved by the current owners
- Lounge, Large Kitchen/Dining Rm, Rear Lobby/Utility
- Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- Lawned gardens, large gravelled parking area
- Gas C/H and uPVC D/G. EPC Rating D

Heritage Way Llanymynech **NEW**
£219,995

- Immaculate 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Kitchen, Utility
- 4 Beds (master en-suite), Bathroom
- Integral Garage, Large Gated Driveway
- Cloakroom, Landscaped Rear Gardens
- D/G, Propane Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

Meadow Rise Oswestry **NEW PRICE - NO CHAIN**
£121,500

- Well appointed and spacious Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Ent Hall, Living Rm, Kitchen, 2 Beds & Bathroom
- The town bus stop is situated close by
- Good size front & rear gardens & ample off-road parking
- Gas central heating and D/G. EPC Rating D

Orfas Close Treflech
£370,000

- 5/6 Bedroom Executive Family Home
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge, Games Room
- Large Kitchen/Dining/Family Rm
- Utility/Shower Rm, Master Bedroom (en-suite)
- Bedroom 2 (en-suite), 3 Further Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom, Study/Bed 6
- Large Gravelled Driveway
- D/G. Oil C/H. EPC Rating C

Calyn House Weston Rhyn
£315,000

- Substantial Detached 5 Bedroom Property
- 3 Reception Rms, Dining Rm, Kitchen, Utility, Cellar
- Ground Fir Bathroom, 5 Beds (2 en-suite) & Family Bathrm
- Mature & well maintained gardens & off-road parking
- Oil C/H & hardwood D/G. EPC Rating G

Cefn Coch Llanrhaeadr
£395,000

- Truly idyllic country cottage
- Retaining a Host of Original Features
- Sun Rm, Dining Hall, Farmhouse Style Kitchen
- Utility, Ground Floor Shower Rm, Lounge
- 3 Beds (master en-suite WC) Family Bathrm
- Large Gardens, Parking. D/G/ Oil C/H. EPC Rating E

Chapel Lane Knockin Heath **NO CHAIN**
£275,000

- Spacious Detached Bungalow set on large plot
- The property requires some modernization works
- Living Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Sun Rm
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Fully enclosed rear garden with rural views
- Oil C/H and D/D. EPC Rating E

19th June Property Auction

2.00pm

@ the Lion Quays Hotel, Moreton Oswestry SY11 3EN

LOT 1 AUCTION

Ruabon WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £50,000

- Two bedroomed stone terrace house
- Pleasant elevated position
- In a Conservation Area
- Potential for full scheme of sympathetic improvement
- Energy Rating G
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 2 AUCTION

Chester Road WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £120,000

- Providing excellent scope for modernisation and refurbishment
- Traditionally styled bay-fronted three bedroom property
- Parking gardens and brick garage
- EPC Rating F
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 3 AUCTION

Pentre Broughton WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £100,000

- Detached three bedroom family home
- Double glazed and Gas C/H
- Paddock to the side and gardens
- Parking, detached garage with workshop/stores
- EPC Rating G
- Contact Llangollen Office

LOT 4 AUCTION

Acton WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £50,000

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Gardens
- EPC Rating C
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 4a AUCTION

Acton WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £50,000

- Ground Floor Flat
- Two double bedrooms
- Double glazing & electric heating
- Enclosed gardens
- EPC Rating b/c
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 5 AUCTION

Acrefair LLANGOLLEN
Guide Price Over £150,000

Formerly occupied by the business known as "Border Beds" whilst a separate businesses operate from the Trinity Hall annex. Large car parking area to the rear of the buildings.

- EPC Rating C
- Contact Llangollen Office

LOT 6 AUCTION

Pentre Broughton WREXHAM
Guide Price Over £100,000

- A two bedroom detached bungalow
- Double glazing and Gas C/H
- Low level maintenance gardens
- Parking, detached garage with workshop/stores
- EPC Rating E
- Contact Wrexham Office

LOT 7 AUCTION

Glyn Ceiriog LLANGOLLEN
Guide Price Over £100,000

- Deceptively spacious Det Bungalow
- Situated close to village centre
- Sun Porch, Lounge, Bathroom
- Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms. Large garden
- uPVC Double Glazing, Oil CH
- EPC Rating F
- Contact Chirk Office

LOT 8 AUCTION

Bronygarth OSWESTRY
Guide Price Over £50,000

A truly unique opportunity to purchase a Country Cottage together with 2.6 acres of woodland all situated in an idyllic country setting with open views towards Chirk Castle, the Ceiriog Valley and the Shropshire Plain.

- Contact Oswestry Office

Our local valuers offer many years of experience and offer honest and independent advice on the how to achieve the best price possible. To arrange a free no-obligation market appraisal please contact one of the offices.



The Auction Catalogue can be downloaded from

bowensonandwatson.co.uk/
online-catalogue

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M

M

P

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Oswestry office:
16 LEG STREET
OSWESTRY
SY11 2NN

01691 679595



Mancot, Chapel Lane, Knockin Heath

- Spacious det dormer bungalow
- 2 Receptions, 4/5 bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast, utility, sun rm
- En-suite, bathroom/shower rooms

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



- Oil central heating, double glazing
- Well maintained landscaped gardens
- Inspection highly recommended
- EPC Rating = 69 (C)

£425,000



22 Dyffryn Foel, Llansantffraid
£147,500

- Well Maintained Semi detached house
- 2 Receptions, 3 bedrooms, cloaks
- Oil-fired central heating. Edge of village.
- Private parking, Garage, enclosed paved rear
- EPC Rating = 66 (D). No Chain

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



30 Maes Y Dderwen, Llanfyllin
£149,995

- Modern semi-detached house
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 receptions, conservatory
- En-suite shower and family bathroom
- Oil-fired central heating, double glazing
- On-site parking and enclosed gardens
- EPC Rating = 78 (C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Bryn Craig, Moelfre, SY10 7QL
£239,950

- Well located three bedroom country bungalow
- Double glazed, oil-fired central heating, garage
- Newly installed fitted kitchen and shower room
- Landscaped gardens with elevated seating area
- Excellent views over the adjoining countryside
- Popular rural location in picturesque valley
- EPC Rating = 51 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

New Development, Coly Anchor, Kinnerley



Coly Anchor Developments Ltd
Announce Phase 2
Comprising a range of
2, 3 and 4 bedroom
properties
Construction has
just commenced.
Reservations now
taking place
Contact us for further
information on 01691
679595
Current Available Prices
start from £205,000 for
3 bed detached

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



30 Bridge Street, Llanfyllin
£89,950

- Two bedroom mid terrace town house
- Sitting room and fitted kitchen/breakfast
- G/floor bathroom, electric heating, d/glazing
- Enclosed gravelled rear garden area
- Close to town amenities. EPC rating = 44 (E)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



97 Old Chirk Road, Gobowen
£139,995

- Detached two bedroom bungalow
- Lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory
- Gas-fired central heating, double glazing
- Det garage, Good sized enclosed gardens
- Well served village with railway station
- EPC rating = 53 (E). NO CHAIN

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



10 Clos Bryn Y Ddol, Welshpool
£110,000

- Semi-Detached 3 Bedroom House
- Living Room, Kitchen/Diner
- Gas Central Heating. Double Glazed
- Front & Rear Garden. Driveway
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 64

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

COLLECTIVE PROPERTY AUCTION

Thursday 19th June - 2PM
at Welshpool Livestock Market, Buttington Cross,
Welshpool, SY21 8SR

Lot Number	Address	Guide Price
1	Carregdio Lake, Llangurig,	£15,000
2	Flat 3, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth	£75,000
3	8 The Terrace, Commins Coch	£65,000
4	4 Ael y Don, Aberystwyth	£50,000 - £55,000
5	Flat 4, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth	£75,000
6	8 Glan Rhiew, Manafon, Welshpool	£65,000 - £75,000
7	13 Glan y Mor, Tywyn,	£50,000 - £55,000
8	Flat 2, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth	£45,000
9	Cambrian House, Llanfair Caereinion	£115,000 - £125,000
10	Flat 5, 18 Marine Parade, Barmouth	£65,000
11	2 Brynhafren, Llanidloes,	SOLD PRIOR TO AUCTION
12	Bro'r Awelon, Dinas Mawddwy	£220,000 - £230,000
13	Hillcrest, Newtown	£135,000
14	Ivy Cottage, Rhayader,	£125,000
15	Bronafon, Llangadfan, Welshpool	£100,000
16	Former Primary School, Dolfor,	£115,000
17	Glancoegen, Cemmaes	£125,000 - £130,000
18	Land at Penhelyg, Aberdyfi	£45,000 - £50,000
19	PenCroesau, Llangurig,	NOW BY PRIVATE TREATY
20	Maenol, Llangurig Road, Llanidloes	£350,000

Auction Catalogues Now Available - www.morrismarshall.co.uk



14 Cambrian Terrace, Llanfyllin
£135,000

- End-Terrace Town House
- Ent Hall/Study, 2 Receptions
- Kitchen, Utility, W.C
- 3 Bedrooms & Bathroom. Gas C/H. D/G.
- Courtyard to rear with parking space
- Located close to the centre of Llanfyllin
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 53

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



Cartref, Meifod
£140,000

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Village Property in 1 Acre
- 2 Receptions, Kitchen, Sun Room
- Garden/Paddock to rear
- Development Opportunity
- In need of upgrading & renovation
- Energy efficiency rating = 18

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

10 Glanrafon, Llanfair Caereinion



£155,000

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



34 Parc Hafod, Four Crosses
£250,000

- Modern Det 4 Bedroom Family House
- Sitting and Dining & Family Rooms
- Kitchen, Utility, Separate W.C.
- Main Bedroom with En-suite, Bathroom
- Det Double Garage. Enclosed rear garden
- LPG Heating, Double Glazed
- Energy efficiency rating = 54

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



Cockshutt, Montgomery
£350,000

- A Detached Character Property
- Wealth of exposed joists and features
- Sitting/Dining/Study
- Snug, Kitchen, Breakfast Rm
- 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, W.C
- Useful commercial, storage outbuildings
- Garden grounds to front and rear
- Energy efficiency rating = 33

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



Castle Cafe, Church Street Welshpool
£240,000

- Well Known Cafe/Eating House.
- Seating for 78.
- Fully fitted Kitchen.
- Close to town centre.
- Energy efficiency rating = 75

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

ABERYSTWYTH • 01970 625020
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MACHYNLETH • 01654 702472

NEWTOWN • 01686 626160
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ABERDYFI • WINDOW DISPLAY



Modern village home backs on to open fields

A modern three-bedroom semi-detached home backing on to open fields is on the market for £142,000. With uPVC double glazing and gas central heating, 1 Cae Gwyn Close, in the village of Morda, near Oswestry, has all local amenities close at hand and is within easy reach of commuting links. The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, master en-suite, and family bathroom. There is driveway parking to the front and a lawned rear garden with patio offering fantastic views. Viewing is highly recommended by agents Town & Country, who can be contacted on 01691 679631.



Mature property convenient for town centre

A rare chance has arisen to purchase a spacious three-bedroom detached period property set on a large plot within walking distance of Oswestry town centre. With a host of original features, Bankside, 2 Monkmoor Road, includes an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, pantry, rear hallway, utility, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The house stands in large mature gardens with off-road parking, a garage, greenhouse, shed, oil-fired central heating and recently installed timber framed double glazed windows. Priced at £175,000, the agents recommend early viewing – call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



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OSWESTRY



- Detached three bedroomed family house in sought after residential area
- G/F C/H, D/G
- Cloakroom
- Kitchen & Utility
- Dining Room
- Sitting Room & Lounge
- Dressing Room
- Large Garage
- Attractive Gardens
- EPC Band D
- JJD778

£349,950

GOBOWEN



- Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Ample Car Parking
- Large rear Garden
- Decked Patio/BBQ Area
- EPC Band - F
- JJD840

OFFERS ON £162,500

ST. MARTINS.



- GfCH & D/G
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Large Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms
- Workshop
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Bounded By Stream
- Semi-Rural Location
- EPC Band - E
- JJD836

OFFERS IN REGION OF £185,000

OSWESTRY



- GfCH PVC D/G
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Cloakroom & Laundry
- Four Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Garage/Workshop
- EPC Band - D
- JJD838

OFFERS INVITED ON £249,950

PANT



- Individually designed highly appointed three bed detached house
- O/F C/H, D/G
- Lounge & Study
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Sun Room
- Bathroom & En-Suite
- Children's Play Room/ Fourth Bedroom
- Garage & Car Parking
- Extensive Views
- EPC Band C
- JJD782

£420,000

LLANFECHAIN



- Kitchen
- Drawing Room
- Lounge & Sun Room
- Library & Study
- Cloakroom
- 5 Bedrooms/2 Baths
- Double Garaging
- Possibility to split accommodation
- EPC Band - C
- JJD833

GUIDE PRICE £400,000

OSWESTRY



- Attractive Victorian Terraced House.
- Partial Gas CH
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Beds
- Modern Bathroom
- Loft/Bedroom 3
- Rear Yard And Garden
- EPC Band E
- JJD710

OFFERS OVER £89,950

OSWESTRY



- Modern Detached Bungalow
- GfCH & D/G
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage And Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Cul De Sac Location
- EPC Band D
- JJD814

£138,950

PANT, NR. OSWESTRY



- Oil Fired Central Heating
- Entrance Porch
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Enclosed Front Garden
- Parking for 4/5 cars
- Workshop
- Includes B/Plot with Full P/P for Dwelling
- EPC Band F
- JJD807

GUIDE PRICE £350,000

GOBOWEN



- Detached Three Bedroomed Split Level House
- GfCH, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position
- Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D
- JJD781

£210,000

GOBOWEN



- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - D
- JJD842

£69,950

OSWESTRY



- Ground Floor Apartment
- GfCH
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking Space
- Visitors Parking
- EPC Band - D
- JJD835

£109,950

OSWESTRY (01691) 653437 - (01691) 680212



RICHMOND HARVEY

Nant Lane, Morda



Richmond Harvey Properties are delighted to release this 4 bedroom detached family house briefly comprising: Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Living Room, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Family Bathroom, Double Glazing, Oil Fired Central Heating, Driveway, Garage and Gardens - EPC RATING E.

Offers In The Region Of £350,000

Regent Court, Oswestry



A most comfortably appointed two bedroom ground floor retirement apartment conveniently placed for local town amenities. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Further Shower Room, Double Glazing, Electric Heating, Patio Area. Further service charges will apply. EPC RATING D.

Offers In The Region Of £112,950



S.S.T.C

Helfa Bach, Lodgevale Park, Chirk

A 3 bedroom family house which has been tastefully improved by the present owners to include a generous conservatory and attractive re-fitted kitchen and bathroom. Also benefitting from a ground floor WC and immaculate presentation throughout, early viewing is fully recommended to avoid any disappointment. EPC Rating D.

Asking Price £130,000



Jasmine Close, Oswestry

3 bed detached: Entrance Hall, Ground Floor WC, Living Room with feature multi fuel stove, Contemporary Kitchen/Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Fired CH, PVC DG, Driveway, Garage, Gardens. EPC RATING D.

Offers in Region of £179,995



Cranbrook Drive, Oswestry

Four bedroom detached bungalow: Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Side Porch, WC, Living and Dining Rooms, Inner Hall, 4 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, driveway, Garage and further outbuilding, attractive surrounding landscaped gardens. No Onward Chain. EPC RATING D.

Offers in Region of £214,950



S.S.T.C

Buckingham Cl, Oswestry

Two bedroom detached bungalow comprising: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Gas Fired Central Heating, Driveway, Detached Garage and Gardens. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING D.

Offers Over of £160,000



Longfield, Chirk

Spacious 2 bedroom end terraced house: Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Garden Room, First Floor Landing, 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Oil Fired Central Heating, PVC Double Glazing, Driveway, Gardens. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING C.

Offers in Region of £114,000



Dolywern, Llangollen

Situated in the picturesque Ceiriog valley, Richmond Harvey properties are delighted to release this character one bedroom apartment which is part of a conversion of the former water mill at Glan Y Wern. EPC RATING E.

Offers in Region of £89,950



Ifton Fields, St Martins

●●OFFERS INVITED ●● - Enjoying a pleasant cul-de-sac location a most well appointed and deceptively spacious 2 bed mid terraced property which needs to be viewed to appreciate the excellent accommodation. EPC RATING C.

Offers Over of £112,000



Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog

Spacious 3 bedroom end terraced property which could also be suitable for a holiday retreat. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Porch, Hall, Cloakroom, Re-Fitted Kitchen, First Floor: Spacious Master Bedroom, PVC Double Glazing, Oil Fired Central Heating EPC RATING E.

Offers in Region of £139,995



Abernant, Acrefair

Offering scope for improvement yet offering the opportunity of purchasing a truly spacious family home, Richmond Harvey Properties are favoured with instructions of marketing 'Cemetery House' a mature detached residence which has the benefit of being sold with No Onward Chain. EPC RATING E.

Offers in Region of £165,950



Hillside, Pant

4 bed detached with views over the village and Plain beyond: Reception Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, 1st Floor Landing, 4 Bedrooms, Shower Room, Oil Fired CH, PVC DG where stated, Parking and Terraced Gardens. Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING E.

Offers in Region of £210,000



Roft Street, Oswestry

3 bed det Victorian town house sympathetically improved over the years by the present owners yet still retaining a wealth of character features within easy reach of the comprehensive range of local amenities the town has to offer. VIEWING FULLY RECOMMENDED. EPC RATING D.

Offers in Region of £224,995



Llanymynech

4 bedroom executive detached house which offers excellent family accommodation along with: Double Width Driveway, Garage and Neatly Landscaped Gardens. LPG central heating system via radiators where stated, Double Glazing where stated. Internal Viewing Fully Recommended. EPC RATING C.

Offers in Region of £249,500



Greenhill Bank, Criffins

4 bed detached house which enjoys a delightful rural position comprising: Porch, Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility, WC, First Floor, 4 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Oil Fired CH, PVC DG, Driveway, Car Port and Gardens. EPC RATING E.

Offers in Region of £229,995



Old St Martins Road, Gobowen

A two bedroom end terraced house. The property briefly comprises: Lounge, Re-Fitted Kitchen, Rear Lobby, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two Generous Bedrooms, Gas Fired Central Heating, Double Glazing and Garden to Rear. Agents Note: The property is currently tenanted but notice has been served for possession. EPC RATING E.

Offers In The Region Of £90,000



S.S.T.C

Lower Halton Cottage, Lower Halton, Chirk

A 4 bedroom semi detached country cottage which briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Ground Floor Bathroom, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Three Further Bedrooms, Oil Fired Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazed Windows, Driveway and Garden. EPC RATING E.

Offers In The Region Of £185,000



School Lane, St Martins

A 5 bedroom detached family house. The property briefly comprises: Reception Hall, Sitting Room/Play Room, Utility/WC, Kitchen, Dining Room, First Floor Landing, Master Bedroom Ensuite, Family Bathroom, PVC Double Glazing, Driveway, Garage, Side Passageway with Store and Lean To. Enclosed Gardens. EPC RATING C.

Offers In The Region Of £289,995



Turners Lane, Llyncllys

A 3 bedroom detached bungalow. The property briefly comprises: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Inner Hall, Recently Re-Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Majority Double Glazed Windows, Oil Fired Central Heating, Driveway, Garage and Neatly Landscaped Gardens. EPC RATING D.

Offers In The Region Of £199,950

www.richmondharvey.com

Chirk Office Unit 2B Greystones • Church Street • Chirk • Wrexham • LL14 5HA • 01691 777879

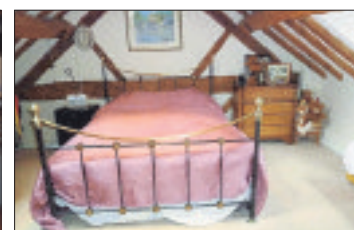
Oswestry Office 27 Cross Street • Oswestry • Shropshire • SY11 2NF • 01691 654222



Three-bedroom bungalow in a popular village

A detached bungalow in the popular village of Llanfechain is on the market with Halls. The spacious accommodation at 5 Maes Yr Ysgol comprises an entrance hall, large lounge/dining room with doors to conservatory, a kitchen, dining area, inner hallway, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is an attached garage, lawned front garden and enclosed rear garden with a lawn flanked by beds containing a variety of plants, shrubs and ornamental trees.

The property is priced at £235,000. Call Halls on 01938 555552 or visit www.hallsgb.com to find out more.



Barn conversion with glorious parkland views

A character detached barn conversion which has been sympathetically renovated by the present owners is on the market with no upward chain. Henlle Barn in Henlle Lane, Weston Rhyn, stands in a delightful location overlooking open parkland towards Henlle golf course. With flexible accommodation and the potential for annexe or bed and breakfast facilities, the four-bedroom property makes a superb country home which is well placed for the A5 road network. Agents Richmond Harvey are seeking offers around £397,500 – call them on 01691 654222 or email oswestry@richmondharvey.com to arrange a viewing.



Roger Parry & Partners

www.rogerparry.net



Moelydd, Trefonen, Oswestry OFFERS INVITED

An exceptional opportunity to purchase amenity land amounting to approximately 2 acres in a spectacular elevated position with far reaching views close to Offa's Dyke footpath. Derelict cottage no consent to rebuild.

oswestry@rogerparry.net

01691 655334

Ref: PAOD

Welshpool
01938 554499

Shrewsbury
01743 791336

Oswestry
01691 655334

HARRY RAY & COMPANY ESTATE AGENTS: AUCTIONEERS: VALUERS

PROPERTY AUCTION. SATURDAY 28th JUNE 2014.

Roanhead, Red Bank, Welshpool.

Detached two bedroom bungalow in need of internal modernization and upgrading situated in an elevated position in a popular residential area of the town. The property briefly comprises: Entrance porch, central hallway, lounge, sun room and dining room. Galley kitchen, utility and store. Two bedrooms and bathroom. Garage, gardens and grounds. Energy Efficiency Rating: E,20.

Guide: £140-145,000.

Bethany Chapel, Hodley, Kerry, Newtown.

Detached grade II listed detached former chapel with graveyard benefitting from Planning Permission for conversion to a dwelling. The property stands alongside the council highway in the hamlet of Hodley some 2 miles from the village of Kerry.

Guide: £50-55,000.

Pear Tree Cottage, Kerry, Newtown.

A brick and slated two bedroom terrace cottage in need of modernisation and upgrading retaining many original features conveniently situated in the centre of the popular village of Kerry. Briefly comprising: Sitting room, pantry, kitchen and two bedrooms. Various out houses and small yard to rear.

Energy Efficiency Rating: F,35.

Guide: £45-50,000.

27/28 Mount Street, Welshpool.

A two bedroom stone and slated terraced cottage in need of modernisation and upgrading conveniently located a short distance from the town centre. Briefly comprising: Kitchen/breakfast, sitting room, lean to rear store with w.c. Two bedrooms and bathroom. Garden to rear. Energy Efficiency Rating: D,65.

Guide: £50-55,000

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A Journal supplement

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MNA Media

By Edward Parker

'The handling remains as much fun as ever, offers decent value for money and will paint a huge smile on your face'

The handling remains as much fun as ever, offers decent value for money and will paint a huge smile on your face.

[illegible]

Furrows commercials

Courier is a good move

By Sharon Walters

When it comes to vans, one size most certainly doesn't fit all.

Van users have hugely diverse needs and the fragmentation of the van market into varying different size classes has provided manufacturers with the opportunity to really tailor vans to specific purposes. Take this Ford Transit Courier. You used to know where you were with a Ford Transit. It was a big, blocky thing and it had all the sophistication of a stag weekend in Magalluf. Buyers loved it though. It was rugged, inexpensive and did the job. Now the Ford Transit is a brand that encompasses a number of different models.

It's a lucrative strategy too, with the upswing in commercial vehicles sales post-recession. Ford expects Transit range sales to grow to 400,000 units per year by 2016, well over 50 per cent more than its 2012 figure and key to that will be the smallest member of the Transit retinue, the Transit Courier.

Although you don't get any choice when it comes to body styles, you'll need to come to a decision about the oily bits under the bonnet. The Courier is available with highly-efficient diesel and petrol engines that target best-in-class fuel economy and offer Auto-Start-Stop on all units. Customers can choose between the Dagenham-built 1.5-litre 75PS and 1.6-litre 95PS Duratorq TDCi diesel engines, plus the tiny 1.0-litre 100PS EcoBoost petrol engine, the "International Engine of the Year" 2012.

City vans need to do that seemingly impossible thing of being big on the inside but as small as is practicable outside, which is one reason why they all look much of a muchness, namely a cube and a bonnet with the marque's family face graft-

ed on the front. The Transit Courier doesn't deviate too far from this template although the steeply raked windscreen does give it more of a one-box look. Couple that with the typically hefty Ford front grille and some subtly flared wheel arches and it looks handsome. You could see a few of these being converted to neat looking surf vans with the right wheels and paint.

But the Courier isn't just about looking good. It's also about making the working environment easy and hassle free. Get inside and you'll find well-sculpted front seats and a dashboard that wouldn't look out of place in a family car, nice use of metallic finishes, wheel-mounted audio controls and a centre console that's pretty close to what you'd get if you'd bought a new Fiesta. That's no real surprise as the Transit Courier rides on Ford's global B-segment chassis which underpins cars like the B-MAX, EcoSport and, the Fiesta.

Luxury options include a voice-activated in-car connectivity system, a Rear View Camera, Easy Fuel, Speed Limiter and standard ESC (Electronic Stability Control), plus a class-leading variety of safety features. Perhaps the neatest optional touch though is the clever 'Ford Sync with Emergency Assistance' set-up.

The Transit Courier delivers load volume of 2.3m³ with a standard full bulkhead and an overall length of 4.16 metres. Practicality highlights include the longest-in-class load length at floor level of 1.62 metres, the best in class access width through sliding rear side doors, a full-height, full-width steel bulkhead (glazed or unglazed) and full compliance with DIN and ISO standards for load restraints. There's also an optional folding mesh bulkhead and an optional fold-down passenger seat to accommodate extended length items,



'Attractive styling, great engines and a whole lot of consideration poured into making a small van work like a big 'un'

creating a class-leading total load length of 2.59 metres. Six cargo tie-down points, multiple pre-installed body side fixing points to mount racking or framework and optional ultra-bright LED load space lighting all highlight the depth of design.

With a generous load volume and maximum payload capacity of 660kg, the Transit Courier can accommodate a wide variety of cargo and equipment, including a standard Euro pallet. The cabin offers an ideal mobile-office environment, with smart stowage including a "mega-centre" console capable of stor-

ing A4 documents and small laptops.

Though start/stop is only optional, running costs are low, especially if you choose the 1.5-litre diesel, which manages 72.4mpg on the combined cycle and 104g/km of CO₂.

Attractive styling, great engines and a whole lot of consideration poured into making a small van work like a big 'un' has resulted in what looks certain to be a sales winner. Buyers trust the Transit name and the Courier is going to do the brand no harm at all.

Introducing the All-New Ford Transit Courier

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Don't be fooled by Transit Courier's small appearance; a load area of up to 2.4cu.m gives you 10% more load volume than other vehicles in the same class. Take the folding bulkhead with 'fold and dive' passenger seat option and you also get a class-leading load length of 2.59m.

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Martin takes on a key role as he joins the team at dealership

The Greenhous Group is delighted to welcome former Shrewsbury Town Football Club head of community, Martin James, as its new PR and communications executive.

Martin joins the e-commerce team at the Greenhous Group headquarters at Vincent House on the Shrewsbury Business Park, under the leadership of James Wilkes, head of e-commerce.

James says: "I am excited to welcome Martin to our team. He is known to have an extensive working knowledge of the community and has a huge network of contacts."

"The Greenhous Group is looking to strengthen its relationships with communities across Shropshire and Martin will be a key player in our strategy to achieve this."

For his part Martin will bring many years of experience working with the community and through PR roles he has held previously.

ddddd

Martin has built up a wide network of contacts as well having been involved with a large number of charities, community groups and other businesses.

Prior to his work at the football club, Martin was head teacher at the Kingsland Grange Prep School which is now the Shrewsbury High Prep School.

He said: "Greenhous is a major player in supplying a multitude of dealer services through car and commercial vehicle franchises across Shropshire and the West Midlands."

"Not only will I be looking to promote the high quality products and service Greenhous dealerships provide, but also to highlight the personal stories behind the scenes."

"Every successful company has at its heart a team of talented individuals who work to a com-



mon purpose. Many of our staff give their time freely to promote good causes or actively engage in community initiatives. The company is rightly proud of those achievements."

The Greenhous Group has grown significantly in recent years to include Vauxhall, DAF Trucks, VW Commercial, Nissan, Toyota, Volvo, Renault and Dacia as well as an extensive bodyshop network.

Greenhous has been the stadium sponsor for Shrewsbury Town for the past four years and the shirt sponsor for many years. It has also been

very successful in supporting local initiatives which Martin will build upon.

During its centenary year in 2012 Greenhous gave significant support to charitable causes including Hope House Children's Hospice, Severn Hospice, Action for Children and the Ark in Shrewsbury.

Pictured: James Wilkes, head of e-commerce, Matthew Jones e-commerce assistant, Kara Hoofe, marketing co-ordinator, Shanna Morris, e-commerce assistant and Martin James, PR and communications executive.

All set for big kick-off

With the 2014 World Cup in Brazil starting this week, the Shrewsbury-based Greenhous Vauxhall team all eagerly await England's first group match against Italy.

As part of Vauxhall's sponsorship of the England team, promotional life-size cut-out figures of squad members were delivered to showrooms around the country.

There are fantastic deals on the Vauxhall Mokka Exclusiv 1.6 and the Adam Jam 1.2, currently at both of the Greenhous Vauxhall dealerships.

With many local primary schools engaging in activities around the World Cup, Greenhous Vauxhall is making the figures available to those schools to use as materials to excite the pupils and provide a pho-

tographic opportunity with the stars, who include former Shrewsbury Town goalkeeper, Joe Hart, now the England and Manchester City number one, England captain Steven Gerrard, James Milner and Glenn Johnson.

Getting in on the act and helping to fill a gap in the defensive wall is Gary Street, sales consultant at the Old Potts Way Greenhous Vauxhall dealership in Shrewsbury.

Gary enthused: "Stevie G and I are now the best of mates! We wish the lads all the best for the competition."

Any schools or groups wishing to book the use of the cut-out figures should contact Martin James, PR and communications executive at Greenhous.

E mail martin.james@greenhous.co.uk

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Leading the way on road safety

By Sharon Walters

More than 1,000 motorists have signed up for a free police road safety course created by a Shropshire road safety education organisation and aimed at improving road safety awareness.

The Road Smart scheme, was written for Avon and Somerset Constabulary by UK road safety leader, the TTC Group, which educates 250,000 road users each year to reduce casualties nationwide.

All drivers in the Avon and Somerset force area can attend the free driving awareness sessions over the next 12 months

Alan Prosser, TTC Group's NDORS development director at its Telford HQ said: "We were very pleased to be asked by the police to develop and deliver a bespoke driving workshop especially for motorists in Avon and Somerset.

"It is excellent news that more than 1,000 people have now signed up for the course which focuses on the most common causes of collisions.

"Our aim is to reduce road deaths and injuries across the UK with our wide variety of education courses for motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians. This innovative course being run in Avon and Somerset is an excellent example of how we can educate people to be safer drivers."

Two versions of the Road Smart course have been developed by the TTC Group,

one specifically for younger motorists, aged 17 to 24, with a variation designed for the over-25s.

The TTC Group also educates professional drivers and the corporate sector, helps local authority road safety teams and delivers cycle instruction and pedestrian safety for schools. For more information visit www.ttc-uk.com

Superintendent Ian Smith said: "Many crashes are caused by human error and one of the key aims of the scheme is to increase drivers' awareness of the potential hazards to look out for on the roads to help increase their safety.

Encourage

"The sessions are open to motorists of any age but we are particularly keen to encourage young drivers aged between 17 and 24 to sign up, since around a third of all serious collisions in our area involve this age group.

"We would encourage all drivers to sign up to a session and to encourage their friends and relatives to do the same. This is a fantastic opportunity to benefit from a free course that could be a life-saving opportunity."

Avon and Somerset police and crime commissioner Sue Mountstevens said: "To hear that over 1,000 motorists have taken the time to sign up to the road safety scheme is really promising. It speaks volumes that drivers of all ages are taking personal responsibility to improve their road safety awareness.

"I hope in seeing how well received the scheme has been it will encourage other motorists to find out more about a Road Smart session in their area."



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On the road cash price*	£32,200.00
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Rate of interest (fixed)	4.90% APR
Credit arrangement fee*	£0.00
Credit completion fee	£0.00
Option to purchase fee**	£10.00
Optional final payment	£11,376.00
Total amount payable	£35,578.01
APR	4.9% APR
Excess mileage charge (per mile)	6.60 pence

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07	PEUGEOT 207 S, HDI, 5 DOOR, RED, SERVICE HISTORY 66K	£4,595	10	TRANSIT 280 SWB STD. ROOF WHITE, SERVICED 69K	£7,495
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German economic power

By John Aston

The Mercedes-Benz S300 BlueTEC Hybrid is a rare swing and miss from Mercedes. It's neither smooth enough nor economical enough in the real world to earn a solid recommendation. It's still an extremely good car, but we come to expect virtual perfection when shopping for S-Classes.

Like it or not, the motoring landscape is changing. The manual gearbox is fast becoming a museum piece, electronic control systems are getting ever smarter and hybrid vehicles are no longer the preserve of granola-munchers wringing their hands over the plight of polar bears. The broadening relevance and attraction of hybrid cars has even spread to a section of the market that might have once seemed wholly impervious to the requirement to be seen as clean and green – the luxury limousine.

Mercedes-Benz tends not to do things by halves when it commits to a technology. Thus you can not only buy an S500 Plug-In Hybrid, you can also choose from an S400 petrol-electric hybrid and, maybe the most interesting of the lot, the S300 BlueTEC diesel-electric hybrid.

First things first. Do you get that typical S-Class magic carpet smoothness? Yes and no. You certainly do when the car is running in electric mode, but when the 201bhp diesel engine cuts back in, you'll feel some vibes through the steering col-

umn and when worked, it lacks the outright smoothness of the six-cylinder diesel. Let's put these comments into perspective though. It's astonishingly smooth for what it is, a relatively small-capacity diesel tasked with moving a huge car. The seven-speed automatic transmission is smoother than a Dean Martin drinks order and when given everything, the S300 Hybrid will get to 62mph in a crisp 7.6 seconds and nudge 150mph if you can reserve yourself a quiet stretch of autobahn.

There's the torque of the electric motor that feels like you're being cupped by a huge hand and urged forwards and the weight of that battery pack in the boot keeps the centre of gravity low, making the S300 feel a lot more nimble than any car that weighs over two tonnes has any right to. If Mercedes could only find a way to take the edge off start-up clatter on cold mornings, you could almost forget this one drank from the black pump.

The styling of this latest S-Class is probably more evolutionary than any previous all-new model, with pronounced wheelarch bulges and coupe-like roofline carried over from the previous W221 generation. Look a bit closer, however, and you'll see the additional shape in the flanks courtesy of slashing swage lines, there's the more upright front grille and the swept-in tail, much in the style of the CLS four-door coupe.

The lighting system deserves more than a passing mention. More than 100 years after the introduction of electric lighting in motor vehicles, Mercedes-Benz is making a complete switch to LED technology – the new S-Class is the first vehicle in the world whose interior and exterior do with-



'The styling of this latest Mercedes-Benz S-Class is probably more evolutionary than any previous all-new model'

out a single light bulb. Out of consideration for any road users behind, the intensity of the brake lights is reduced at night or while waiting at traffic lights which is no bad thing. Some Mercedes models in the recent past have had antisocially bright tail lights. Almost 500 LEDs illuminate the road, the vehicle, the interior and the boot. Depending on equipment, these include headlamps with up to 56 LEDs, tail lights each with up to 35 LEDs (plus 4 for the rear fog lamp) and no fewer than 300 LEDs in the interior, including the ambient lighting.

Both the standard and long wheelbase models wear their bulk with a light touch, and there's plenty of room inside the beautifully-finished cabin. You can even specify the "First Class Rear" where the front console on the transmission tunnel is visually continued to the rear. It's equipped with innovative thermo-cup holders which use Peltier technology to cool or warm drinks over a longer period of time. Like an aircraft seat, the centre console is available with two tables which can be folded in or out using one hand.

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Representative example for a Mercedes-Benz A-Class 180 SE Hatchback Manual*

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On the Road Price	£20,715.00
Customer Deposit	£2,495.00
Retailer deposit contribution	£207.57
Total Deposit	£2,702.57
Number of Payments	36
Optional Final Payment	£10,600.00
Amount of Credit	£18,012.43
Total Amount Payable	£23,261.57
Credit Acceptance Fee	£180.00
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Fixed Interest Rate	5.22%
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Auris – put it on my charge

By David Banner

The Prius gets all the plaudits in Toyota's line-up but the Auris Hybrid might well have been the better car. In second generation guise, it can offer emissions as low as 84g/km.

What are the priorities when it comes to hybrid vehicle dynamics? In order, refinement, then refinement followed by refinement. People don't buy these cars to fling round corners or smoke the tyres away from the lights.



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A good hybrid hatchback should be about pure relaxation and low stress. It should promote a calm, measured driving style and remind the driver that the journey can be enjoyed in ways other than outbraking someone into a roundabout.

Extensive soundproofing in the engine bay, front wheel arches and dashboard has reduced engine and road noise intrusion in the cabin of the latest Auris Hybrid.

The 1.8-litre VVT-i petrol engine was already one of the smoothest in its class and with the addition of the electric motor, it's also reasonably brisk. It'll make 62mph in 10.9 seconds on the way to 112mph.

Conditions

When operating its switchable all-electric EV mode, the Auris Hybrid generates zero CO₂, NO_x and particulates for distances up to 1.2 miles at speeds up to about 31mph, according to the level of battery charge and driving conditions.

Auris Hybrid buyers get to choose either a five-door hatchback bodystyle or the Touring Sports estate.

We tried the ordinary hatch and found a few aesthetic hybrid-specific styling touches. The lower grille and lower part of the rear bumper are finished in a graphite gloss paint and the Toyota emblems on the bonnet and tailgate are finished in hybrid blue. Hybrid logos are featured on the front wings and there is a hybrid mark on the tailgate.

Other features exclusive to the Hybrid also include LED rear light clusters and new 15 and 17in Turbine alloy wheels.

A hybrid meter and specific Eco Drive Support monitor feature on the dashboard. The gear lever is finished in hybrid blue and there is hybrid-specific ornamentation on the instrument panel.

According to grade, the instrument panel has a hybrid blue brushed aluminium finish. Ice blue leather or black leather inserts will be available on higher grades.

Auris Hybrid pricing starts at around £20,000 – and there's an £1,100 premium if you want the Touring Sports estate version. That means you're looking at a premium of around £1,500 over the conventional 130bhp 1.6-litre Valvematic petrol model in each case.

This hybrid model is available in Icon and Excel trims. Icon features 15in alloy wheels, a six-speaker DAB stereo, the Toyota Touch multimedia control screen with Bluetooth and a rear-view camera, plus some leather on the wheel and gear shifter.

The top Excel model gets the lot thrown at it. There's velour and leather seating, dual-zone climate control, park assist, rain-sensing wipers, heated front seats, Smart Entry and Start, cruise control, dusk-sensing lights and so on.

If you feel like dipping out of the rush hour rat-race, the Toyota Auris Hybrid makes a very attractive haven. Think of it as a detox for your commute.

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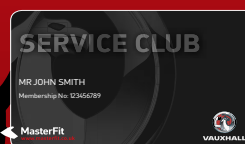
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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km): Vauxhall car range (excluding Ampera): Urban 14.4 (19.6) to 76.3 (3.7). Extra-urban 27.4 (10.3) to 91.1 (3.1). Combined 18.0 (15.7) to 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions 373 to 88g/km. Vehicles shown for illustrative purposes only, and may be fitted with optional equipment available at extra cost. Brilliant paint, metallic or pearlescent two-coat paint and parking distance sensors provided free of charge. Premium paint available at extra cost. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876). City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Offer valid 1 October 2013 - 31 December 2013. To qualify, you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the enhanced rate of the mobility component of PIP/AFIP or War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement, which will be taken in lieu of the four weekly rental. Full written details, including terms and conditions, are available on request. All information correct at time of going to press. *Official EU-regulated test data is provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors.

*Service Club servicing & repairs discounts: 15% for vehicles 2-3 years, 25% for vehicles 3 years plus. Offers apply to MasterFit service and repair work on your registered Vauxhall at participating Retailers only. Service Club is only available to customers of UK registered Vauxhall vehicles. Discount does not apply to tyres and oil. Half-price MOT test (UK mainland only - excluding Northern Ireland). Free pre-MOT test inspection for customers in Northern Ireland only. Members are entitled to discount on any MasterFit labour and only genuine Vauxhall parts. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. *Voucher available until 30/06/2014. Vauxhall reserve the right to amend or remove the offer at their discretion.

Drivetime

Company has top pedigree

Commercial feature

There aren't too many garages which can boast 94 years in business, but family-owned H. Ballard & Son (Motors) Ltd is just such a company which continues to thrive.

Horace Ballard established his dealership in Welshpool in 1920, just after the First World War. Shortly after the doors opened, Horace became an agent for Bean Cars and Star Cars, which throughout the early 1920s often outsold products offered by Austin and Morris.

He later gained the franchise for Guy

Motors, one of the larger commercial vehicle manufacturers at that time. Some years later, agencies for the BLMC group of manufacturers arrived ending with the franchise for MG Rover.

The technicians at H. Ballard & Son continue to offer MG Rover specialist servicing and repairs to this day, along with specialisation on Kia cars and all-makes servicing and repairs for cars and light commercial vehicles.

Allan Ballard took over the running of the company from his father in 1963 and now his sons Robert and Adrian are involved in the family business, selling cars to the same local families which have been customers since the creation of the company in 1920.

Over the years many things have



Pictured in the early Twenties is Mr Horace Ballard, founder of the company Ballard's, with his sister Clara. They are pictured in their Bean car. (pic via)



'The team's wealth of car retailing and customer service experience helps them to select the best vehicles'

changed within the motor industry, but at H. Ballard & Son, one thing has remained a constant, the needs of the customer have always been the number one priority.

The team's wealth of car retailing and customer service experience helps them to select the best vehicles for stock. They have an eye for detail so the overall quality of every model is outstanding, and their vehicle preparation standards are intensely high. Warranty cover comes with every vehicle. Cars can also be sourced for customers.

When it comes to vehicle servicing and repairs, few garages offer more experience. Knowledgeable technicians perform all work efficiently and it helps that they have access to a workshop fitted with modern tooling and sophisticated diagnostic fault-tracing technology. A wide range of garage services are offered including servicing, repairs, MoTs and the replacement of bulbs, batteries, brakes, clutches, cambelts, tyres and exhausts.

For further information call 01938 553152 or visit www.ballardmotors.co.uk

H. Ballard & Son (Motors)

Diesel Selection		
13 (13)	KIA RIO 1.4 Ecodynamic 2. 5dr, Electric blue	£11,850
11 (61)	KIA CEE'D 1.6 CRDI Estate, Silver	WAS £13,950 NOW £12,750
11 (11)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-tec white	Due in
11 (11)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTI SRI 6,000 miles, £30 Road Tax	£12,950
11 (60)	New RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom	£8,950
10 (60)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SRI sapphire black	£8,950
10 (60)	CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI VTR+	£8,450
10 (10)	KIA CEE'D 3 1.6 CRDI phoenix silver £30 road tax	£7,950
10 (10)	RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Silver	£8,650
10 (59)	KIA CEE'D 3 1.6 CRDI Estate Phantom Black, Low Mileage	£8,650
09 (59)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI CLUB 3dr, Black	£4,950
09 (09)	FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC chill silver	£7,950
09 (09)	FORD GALAXY 2.0TDCI GHIA 13000miles only	£10,950
09 (09)	PEUGEOT 308 1.9 HDI Estate, Silver	£7,850
09 (09)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI Design Silver	£8,950
09 (09)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTI DESIGNS-dr, Silver	£6,750
08 (58)	MINI COOPER 1.6 D (Chilli Pack) Astro Black	£8,950
08 (08)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI MATCH 5-dr, Reflex Silver	Due In

2007 57 MINI COOPER DIESEL
1.6, manual, Chilli red, 24000 miles, Air Conditioning, ABS, CD Radio, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows/Mirrors
£8950

07 (57)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTI SXI 5-dr, Black	£6,450
08 (58)	VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT lovely condition,	Due in
07 (57)	MINI COOPER 1.6 D Chilli Red/Checkered Roof	£8,950
07 (57)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI Life, Steel blue	£5,250
07 (07)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI SPORT Shadow Blue	Due In
07 (07)	RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCI DYNAMIQUE Black	£6,450
07 (07)	VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 1.9TDi S Shadow Blue, 7 Seats	£7,850
06 (56)	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 DHI VERVE estate low mileage	£3,650
06 (06)	VW GOLF 1.9 TDI SE 5dr reflex silver	Due in
06 (06)	VW GOLF 1.9 TDI SE Reflex Silver	£6,250
06 (06)	VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDI se 5dr ink blue, local car	£4,950
05 (55)	FORD TRANSIT CONNECT SWB White	£3,750+vat
04 (54)	ROVER 25 2.0 TDI sel ski blue low mileage	£1,850
04 (04)	ROVER 45 2.0TD CONNOISSEUR fireproof red	Due In
04 (04)	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0DTI ENERGY Ultra Blue	£2,450

2010 10 RENAULT MEGANE TOM TOM
1.6 manual, Extreme Blue, 6900 miles, Air Conditioning, ABS, CD Radio, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows/Mirrors
£10,250

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10 (10)	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI Technical Grey	WAS £11,650 NOW £10,650
10 (10)	NEW RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, 6,000 miles	WAS £10,250 NOW £9,250
10 (59)	TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVTi 5 door, Grey	£7,450
09 (59)	FIAT PANDA ACTIVE Eco Silver	£4,950
09 (59)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 ACTIVE 17000 miles only	Due in
09 (09)	FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE + 5dr moon dust silver	£6,950

2007 VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN 1.9 TDI S
1.9 Diesel, manual, Shadow Blue, 56000 miles
Air Conditioning, ABS, CD Radio, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows/Mirrors
£7850

08 (58)	VW POLO 1.2 MATCH 5dr, Black, Low Mileage	Due in
08 (58)	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 ACENTA cayman blue	£8,750
08 (57)	TOYOTA AYGO Platinum	£3,950
07 (57)	FORD FOCUS 1.8 GHIA 5dr, Sea Grey, Immaculate	£4,950
07 (57)	MINI COOPER 1.6 3-dr, Pepper pack, Blue Lightning	Due In
07 (07)	FORD KA 70 STYLE Silver	£5,250
06 (56)	PEUGEOT 207 SE 16v 5-dr, Silver Grey 9,000 miles	£7,450
06 (06)	VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 DESIGN Blue	Due In
05 (55)	FORD FIESTA 2.0 ST, Black	Due In
05 (05)	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 LIFE Spearmint Green	Due in
04 (04)	HONDA JAZZ DSI SE 5-door, Silver	£3,750
04 (04)	AUDI A3 2.0 FSI SPORT Red	£5,650
04 (04)	MINI ONE 1.6 3-dr (Pepper Pack) Blue, immaculate	£4,950
03 (53)	VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2 SRI, Sapphire Black	£1,950

2010 CITROEN C3 HDI VTR+
1.4 Diesel, manual, Thorium Grey, 20 000 miles
Air Conditioning, ABS, CD Radio, Alloy Wheels, Remote Central Locking, Electric Windows/Mirrors, Panoramic Windscreen
£7850

4x4 Selection		
11 (60)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI KX-2 awd Phantom black	£15,750
10 (10)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0CRDI X5 4wd phantom black	Due in
09 (09)	SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 1.6 WTi + bright red,27000 miles	£7,650
08 (58)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 crdi xs	£10,850
08 (08)	TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 XT-3 Black	£8,950
08 (08)	FREELANDER 2 TD4 GS Zermatt silver	£12,850
07 (07)	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.2 DCI Columbia lovely example	£8,450
07 (07)	SUZUKI JIMNY J1X+ Black/Grey	£5,950
05 (55)	LANDROVER FREELANDER TD4 adventurer 5dr black	Due in
05 (05)	KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDI XS Silver	£4,850
05 (05)	SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 J1X WTS bright red	£4,250

Automatics		
13 (63)	KIA PICANTO 1.0 AIR 5 door, Bright Silver	Due In
08 (58)	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB 5-door Auto Metro Blue	£5,750
W (00)	BMW 525D AUTOMATIC lovely condition	Due in

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opening of their used furniture shop in Bailey Street they are keen to hear from anyone with items for sale. Modern and antique furniture, collectables or any other item will be considered.

A&G can cater for both full and part house, shed and garage clearances and are also happy to buy single items.

As well as sellable items they are also able to remove your household junk at very competitive rates, recycling as much as possible through authorised waste stations and also donating to local charity outlets.

Whether you require a house removal quote or have items for sale, A&G are happy to call at your home and give you an exact quote or price.

A&G can be contacted on 01691 680097, 07926 995767 or visit www.removalsoswestry.co.uk Or call at the shop in Bailey Street, opposite The Works, to discuss your removal or house clearance.

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deaths

KNIGHTON

Geoffrey

Formerly of Woolston House.

Passed away peacefully at Meadowbrook Nursing Home, on June 6, 2014, aged 82 years.

Beloved Husband of Eleanor, much loved Father of Karen and Angela, Step Father of Stephen and Rebecca, loving Pa of Adam and Millie.

He will be sadly missed by all his Family and many Friends.

Funeral Service at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham, on Friday, June 20, at 11am.

Family flowers only please.

Inquiries to

W.E. PRICE

Funeral Directors

Salop Road

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 652995

PENNINGTON

Ivy

Passed away peacefully on June 2, 2014, after a long illness, aged 89 years.

Loving Wife of the late Ivor, Mother of Brian and Barbara and a much loved Grand-mother and Great-Grand-mother.

Funeral Service at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Oswestry, on Monday, June 16, at 2pm, followed by Cremation at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham.

No flowers by request.

Donations if desired to The British Heart Foundation and Cardiac Unit at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

RUSSELL

Jean Adela

Of Medowbrook Court, Gobowen.

Passed away on May 27, 2014, aged 88 years.

Wife of the late Kenneth George Russell.

Funeral Service at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham, on Friday, June 20, at 2.30pm.

Flowers if desired.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

WILLIAMS

Miriam

Passed away on June 1, 2014.

Much loved Wife of Chris, loving Mum of Sean and Sharon, Mother-in-law of Helen, Nan to Charlotte, Amy, Katie and Jamie, Daughter of Jean and the late Bill Gough and Sister to Dawn and Wayne.

Much loved and forever missed.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry, on Thursday, June 19, at 2pm, followed by Crematorium at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Severn Hospice, Shrewsbury.

All inquiries to

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items for sale

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AQUAROLL, 40 litres £25, also 29 litres £15, Telephone Oswestry 01691 656855

CAMPING TRAILER 79" Longx48" widex11 1/2" deep, detachable ladder rack, £125, 01691 778119

CARAVAN HOOK UP Cable 34ft long £15, 24ft long £12, 01691 656855

CARAVAN STEPS Metal with rubber treads 2 steps, £25, 01691 656855

CHAIN SAW 14" Stihl, electric £14, £130 ono, 01691 662021

CREAM CURTAINS 90x90, brand new never used, £25, 01691 658221

DORSA READY BED Unused cost £25, sell £10, 01938 555512

ELVIS PRESLEY PLATES Three in a surround £15, each as new condition, 0779 1466757

FILING CABINET Cream and brown four drawers, £40 ono, 01691 662021

FIRST BABY Car seat, black red, as new £20, 01938 850214

FOUR FORD Steel wheels with excellent tyres done 400 miles Bridgestone £391, 175/65/R14, £110 ono, 01691 670569

FOUR SEASON OAK Kitchen wall doors 15 for £200 5 glass x 500 7 wood x 300 2 wood x 800 1 display end, 01938 811301

FOUR SEASON OAK Kitchen base doors quality handles 1x600x703 high 5x300x703 high £100, 01938 811301

FOUR SEASON OAK Kitchen drawer fronts 10 for £100, 6 x 500 with handles 4x 600 with handles, 01938 811301

FOUR SEASONS OAK Kitchen dishwasher front 600x703 £60, 01691 811301

FOUR SEASONS OAK Kitchen base doors 6x500 2x600 £150, 01938 811301

GENTS APOLLO Trax Mountain bike brand new, not been used, £85, ono, 01691 570221

GRACO BABY CHAIR Car seat suit from tiny baby vgc, £40, 01938 555512

GRACO CLEO Travel system pram complete converts to pushchair £80, vgc, 01938 555512

KAMPA RALLY 300 Porch awning back poles and seals, bag, extra storm poles and straps £150, 01691 654927 07772 763809

LADIES RALEIGH Airlite frame bike, brand new not been used £85 ono, 01691 570221

MAHOGANY nest of tables, in good condition, £25, 01691 658221

MATTRESS For babies cot, good clean condition, £15, 01691 658221

MAXI COSI Pink car seat c/w 90degree swivel base, vgc, £10, 01938 555512

MENS SARAEN Mountain bike, dual suspension, front disc brake, 26" alloys, 24 speed, £50, 01691 778119

MICHELIN TYRES X5 6-70-15 good trade made in the UK, £100, 01691 695291

ONE SANSTONE Grinding wheel, 30" diameter, £20, 01691 690517

ONE VICTORIAN Chimney pot, 18 hole ideal planter 26" high, £25, 01691 690517

OOTAMAN BEIGE DRALON £10 ono, 01691 657440

ORANGE WING Back chair in good condition, £70 ono, 01691 680725

PARASENE GREENHOUSE Soil heater complete thermostate control £15, 01691 676031

PIANO STOOL Dark wood upholstered cushion lovely condition, £50 ono, 01691 650055

PINE DRESSING TABLE With matching stool, £30, 01938 590307

PORTABLE RECLINING Bath lift Handicare bath Bliss used twice with full instructions, cost £400 sell £150, 01691 688915

PROFESSIONAL STEPPER Sportopt CST7000 with heart rate pulse, calorie monitor good condition, £40, 01691 670829

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SINGLE TEAK Wardrobe £10, Telephone 01691 657440

SIX DARK WOOD DINING Chairs, £30, Telephone 01691 657441

SIX DARK WOOD Dining chairs good condition £30, 01691 657440

SKILL PROFESSIONAL 1/2 sheet sander speed control, dust collector, filters, £15, 01691 676031

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TEVLON ELITE 5.1 Surround sound never used £20, 01691 661214

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TRAILER WHEELS 2x8" diameter 4 stud, £10 each, 01691 778119

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Intriguing Drinker lives up to its name

MOST animals in the Shropshire countryside are known by their common names. Because we only have one or perhaps a handful of species within the family, a rudimentary name seems all that is needed.

We do not call a fox by its full name – it's not known as a 'European Red Fox', but rather just a fox.

And the same is true for the badger, the weasel, the swallow, the kingfisher etc.

However, due to the variety of life, some animals' names do need to be slightly more descriptive – look at the red deer, great spotted and lesser spotted woodpeckers, house and sand martins etc.

But nonetheless these common and basic names are sufficient to distinguish the animal in our mind's eye, if that is, we are not fortunate enough to be staring one in the eye.

Striking

However if one enters the world of the lepidoptera, things get a bit more complicated.

Lepidoptera are basically butterflies and moths and as we enter late spring and early summer, the characters from this order make themselves apparent.

Thankfully we do not just have one or two species of butterfly or moth, but dozens and many of us will know a peacock from a red admiral, a tortoiseshell from a cabbage white.

From early childhood we are enamoured by their striking beauty and fragility.

But what is often missed out on in the world of butterflies and moths, is the often equally wonderful world of the caterpillars.

Many of these larva are sensibly brown or green and may well come under the heading of 'drab' in most handbooks, but there are a few exceptions.

The majority of the gorgeously dyed adults supersede their dowdy former lives with a superb out-clasping in the colour stakes, but not all.

ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



I'm no expert in matters of lepidoptera so I am only assuming this, but it may perhaps be a fair generalisation (myself included until recently) to say that if I asked you 'have you ever seen a drinker?' you may reply with a reference to the nearest pub, or a Friday night in town.

You would of course be correct, but your accuracy would also coincide with a particularly intriguing member of the insect world.

Not, enigmatically, known as anything other than 'The Drinker' this rather 'dull' moth is anything-but in its larval stage.

In truth the adult moth itself is not dull in the colour stakes, being as it is, a creamy yellow.

But it is hardly going to stand up to a hawk-moth or a pearl bordered fritillary. As a caterpillar however, it is a true marvel.

Glossy black hairs interspersed with orange tufts and chalky blue sides punctuated by tussocks of white fur. And at up to 4 inches in length, it dwarfs its future self in more ways than one.

And on top of all this raving about the caterpillar, drinker moths also owe their odd name to their larvae too.

The caterpillars apparently employ the habit of drinking large droplets of rainwater or dew from the grass stems on which they feed (and on which I found my 'drinker').

Seeing as April through to July are the very best times to see both the caterpillars and the moths, why not use the excuse of 'going for a drink' to get out of the house and hunt down 'The Drinker'?

Ben's artworks can currently be seen at Calaghan's Gallery, Shrewsbury



A Drinker at hand and living up to its name

Medical staff thanked for long service

THEY have given more than 30 years' service to the NHS and a county hospital, and now a group of 20 nurses and other staff have been officially thanked for their dedication.

Russell Hardy, chairman of the trust running the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry, presented each of the long-service winners with a certificate and high street vouchers at a recent ceremony.

Mr Hardy said: "Thirty years' service in the NHS is an extraordinary achievement."

The recipients included Matron Gillian Griffiths, clinical services manager, who has spent her career at the hospital.

She said: "I have seen many changes. We had a very busy casualty department years ago and operated all night."

Whilst there have been many changes within the hospital, there is one thing that has never changed and that is the excellent nursing care that we have always delivered. I am very proud to be a part of such a great hospital and I would say roll on the next 30 years, but that may be pushing it."

Sister Liz Reece, main outpatients and pre-operative assessment manager, was another staff member to receive the award.

"I started working in the NHS in 1983 as a student nurse in what was then the three hospitals in Hereford," she said.

"I came to work at Oswestry in theatre before commencing the 12 month orthopaedic course here, and then took a post as an orthopaedic staff Nurse in Shrewsbury for over 10 years, working on trauma and orthopaedic wards. "I returned to RJAH in 1998 as ward manager on Clwyd ward. The main improvement that I've noticed is that there are more trained nursing staff on the wards now, the increased use of technology to improve patient care."

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NEWS
in brief
Hill and nature walks planned

OSWESTRY Ramblers will be walking from Trefonen to The Moelydd also visiting Jones' Rough Nature Reserve and Treflach tomorrow. Meet at Gatacre car park in Oswestry for 10am start or call (01691) 656687.

On Sunday there will be an 8.5mile strenuous walk is on paths and tracks on mainly open hillside to Bertheos and Moel Penannen. Meet at Oswestry's Central Car Park for 9am start or call (01939) 235598. In the afternoon there will be a leisurely four mile walk on lanes and paths around Rednal Aerodrome. Meet at Lloyd Street car park.

Rotary planning visit to brewery

OSWESTRY Rotary Club's next social event is a trip to a thriving local brewery.

Club members are inviting people to join them for the outing to Stonehouse Brewery on June 25 at 7pm.

One of several such events arranged for this summer, the evening costs £9.50 per person and the club says it promises to be enjoyable with food provided at the end of the information and demonstration session.

People interested should visit www.rotary-ribi.org and follow the email link to Oswestry Rotary Club.

Debbie nails capital city challenge for cancer fund

WHEN you think of someone who works in a nail salon you might imagine someone beautifully turned out with rarely a hair out of place.

And Debbie Denny, who runs Nail It with Deb in Willow Street, Oswestry, usually matches this description to a T.

But last week she swapped her salon stool for a bicycle saddle and worked up a sweat as she pedalled through the night in London to raise funds for cancer charities.

Mrs Denny joined more than 1,000 other women for the 68-mile - or 100km - Women vs Cancer Ride the Night event which took place on May 31.

She set herself the challenge of raising £300 before the event, but easily smashed that target thanks to the generosity of her customers, with more donations still coming in.

"It's a very massive challenge but I know many people that have had these cancers so I thought go for it, see what you can do to help," she said.

"I've raised over £500 because of my customers. Some has come in through my JustGiving website but mostly it's been through clients at the salon and there's more coming in all the time."

Roads

The 53-year-old admitted she hasn't done much preparation on the roads for the event, but said she has been practicing in her own way.

"The salon is always really busy, so I don't get a lot of time to myself. They said the race was for all abilities, but you still need to practice, and I don't think I'd be doing it without my spinning group, No Butts Spinning, at Oswestry Leisure Centre," she said. "That's where I've got my stamina from. I've cycled the North Wales coast but I'm so busy that I don't have the time to get out on the roads. I tend to do my training in spurts, usually at spinning."

"I've had lots of support from Stuart Berkley's bike shop as well, helping me get

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE

with Pam Kingsley



the bike ready for the challenge. They did it all free of charge as their donation and I'm very grateful."

Mrs Denny admitted there were moments when she had to push herself to carry on.

"This was a very difficult challenge for me physically and emotionally," she said. "I'd never done anything like this before and it was a really tough challenge. But I know many people that come through our salon and clients' families and friends who have got these cancers. Thinking of all those people who have suffered with cancer helped to drive me through."

The Ride the Night event raised more than £850,000 in total, which will be split between Breast Cancer Care, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Action.

• To sponsor Mrs Denny visit www.justgiving.com/debbie-denny1 or donations can be given in at the nail salon.



Debbie Denny from Nail it with Deb on a 68 mile night time bike ride for charity

Move to entice cyclists intotown

MORE cycle racks could be installed in Oswestry as part of a move to persuade people away from their cars.

Shropshire Council is applying for Department of Transport funding for sustainable transport and it asking organisations across the county to get involved.

Members of Oswestry Town Council's markets and car parks committee will look at what the town can do to encourage people to cycle and walk more, when they meet on Tuesday.

One of the ideas they will discuss is to provide more bicycle and motorcycle parking both within the car parks run by the town council and generally within the town centre.

In a letter to the town council, Martin Withington from Shropshire Council said the unitary authority was putting together a bid for Department of Transport Funding for 2015/16. In 2011 the council won a £5 million grant to support and promote sustainable transport in the county.

The new bid would look at continuing the support for Shropshire's Wheels to Work project and others initiatives to encourage employers and employees to travel to work more sustainably.

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MNA Media

THE ARTS

Pub's football mural is being put up for sale

by Pam Kingsley

A PUB landlord is hoping to cash in on World Cup fever by selling a football-themed mural for charity during the tournament.

Carlton Leonard, who owns The Bell Inn in Church Street, Oswestry, commissioned a mural inspired by the World Cup four years ago which has been on display in the pub.

But he has now had a new mural created for this year's event and is looking for a new owner for the South Africa mural.

Matches

Mr Leonard, who is a former Shrewsbury Town player and shows football matches in his pub throughout the year, said: "We had a mural designed for the 2010 South Africa World Cup.

"It depicted a team of international World Cup footballers.

"We've got a new one now for the Brazil event and it's depicting 12 to 14 players.

"I'm thinking about whether anyone would like to buy the South Africa one and to give the money to Hope House.

"But the picture is just too nice to throw away.

"It's a fun picture – the one we've had done this year is more of the footballers, but the South Africa one is quite fun."

Painted by local artist Rob Howell, the pub's new mural depicts a team of 12 footballers, who are playing a



Paige Lloyd, from The Bell Inn, with the mural painted in 2010

match in front of a Brazilian-themed background.

Mr Leonard will be asking for offers for the mural from any of his customers coming into the pub to watch the matches.

He said: "We will get anything up to 100 or 150 people for big games usually, and it should be more than

that when England are playing their games.

Hopefully we'll have up to 200 people in.

"It would be good to be able to sell the mural and raise some money for a good cause.

"Hopefully someone will want it and give it a good home."

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Band promises to be something different

GIG GUIDE

with Edward Roberts

CLASSICAL music stand-outs and critically acclaimed group the Brodsky Quartet will be performing at the Holy Trinity Church, Oswestry tonight (Thursday).

Since first forming back in 1972, the quartet has gone on to perform over 2000 concerts at some of the most well respected venues around the world.

The group has also had a prolific recording career having released more than 50 records to date.

Owing to their curious nature and diverse musical background, the group has ensured that they remain at the forefront of the international chamber music scene.

All the members are masters of their craft which has earned them awards and accolades worldwide for their superb musicianship. The concert is at 7.30pm.

Tickets for the event are priced at £18 for adults and £9 for children. Call 01691 681135.

If you're looking for something a little bit different this Friday, then make sure you check out Jamie Smith's Mabon at The Willow Gallery, Oswestry.

Hailing from Wales, the band are considered one of the best purveyors



Something different with the J S Mabon Band

of InterCeltic music the UK has to offer. Fronted by accordionist and lead singer Jamie Smith, the band is also made up of fellow virtuoso musicians Oliver Wilson-Dickson on fiddle, Adam Rhodes on bouzouki, Mathew Downer on bass and Iolo Whelan at the drum kit.

From joyful jigs to graceful mazurkas, the curators of Celtic folk are

sure to get you tapping your feet with music. The gig starts at 8pm with tickets costing £10.

This Friday The Royal Oak, Welshpool will have an evening of energetic acoustic music courtesy of singer-songwriter Alex Davies.

Originally from Newtown, Alex has performed at festivals around the UK and appeared on Britain's Got Talent.

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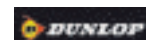
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Players are urged to take part in survey

SHROPSHIRE Cricket Board is calling on recreational players to have their say and help improve the sport in the county – by taking part in the second annual National Cricket Playing Survey.

Last year more than 21,000 current and former players responded to the survey nationally – the first of its kind ever undertaken – and Shropshire Cricket Board is already acting on the comprehensive and wide-ranging feedback received.

Clubs and Leagues across the County are introducing new formats, rule changes, different start times, shorter travel distances to matches and greater opportunities for women, girls and people with a disability to play the game.

Head of Club of Community Programmes for Shropshire Cricket Board Chris Dirkin explained: “We had a great response from 300-plus cricketers in 2013 and would like to build on this to gain further insight into the current landscape of cricket in the county.

“We have already implemented some programmes which are running now such as the Broseley Bash T20 Midweek Cluster League, a Women’s Club Hardball League and a four-County Disability T20 Festival as well as other programmes which are due to run from the autumn of 2014 such as a colts (16s-19s) Club Indoor League and a Women’s Indoor Club League as a result of the feedback from players in Shropshire”

The 2014 survey, which is live from June 5, aims to reach an even wider audience and generate further ideas and innovations which will help increase further take-up of the sport.

From Premier League regular cricketers to the occasional, midweek social cricketer, every player, spectator and volunteer is being urged to have their say on all aspects of the recreational game.

To access the survey to have your say you can use the web link www.ecb.co.uk/playingurvey2014 or for further information contact

Chris Dirkin on chrisdirkin.scb@icloud.com

Ifton lifted after huge Wood win

IFTON eased their basement concerns in the Flowfit Shropshire Premier Bowls League with an emphatic 12-2 (240-170) home win over fellow strugglers Wrockwade Wood.

The much-needed victory lifted the St Martins side out of the bottom two, a couple of points above Wood who have also played two more games. And they will be out to keep up the momentum when they travel to rock bottom Bylet on Friday night.

Dave Bond led the way by taking his side’s most valuable player of the night honour with a 21-12 success over Dale Downes, while there were several other notable displays. Adam Price was Ifton’s biggest winner of the night, with a 21-8 verdict against Tony Garmsom, while Geraint Williams won to nine. Keiron Roberts, Gerwyn Davies and Dicky Jones all won to 12, Giles Evans (14).

Skipper leads way in Oswestry T20 win

A SUPERB captain’s innings by Mark Robinson led Oswestry’s cricketers to an exciting victory at Stourbridge in the second round of the National T20 competition on Sunday.

Robinson blasted 59, including two sixes and five fours, as he and Warrick Fynn (29) put on 79 for the first wicket in pursuit of the home side’s 120-4.

Robinson and Fynn were both run out as the chase heated up, but Scott Hale added a breezy 16 before the winning runs came off the penultimate delivery of the match.

Earlier, Sam Huxley returned the most economical figures of 1-20 off his four overs for an Oswestry side which included only a handful of first-team regulars, with Fynn, Robinson and Alex Davidson each taking a

wicket. Jamie Banks held the Stourbridge innings together with an unbeaten 65.

Saturday’s home game against Bromsgrove in the Birmingham League was abandoned without a ball being bowled after several heavy showers. The second team’s game at Newport suffered the same fate.

A magnificent century by Alex Ramsay was the outstanding feature of OSWESTRY III’s winning draw against Church Stretton at Morda Road in the Shropshire League division three on Sunday.

Ramsay hammered 109, with four sixes and 12 fours, to complete his maiden century for the club as Oswestry totalled 194-4 in a game reduced to 35 overs a side.

He received good support from Dave

Shaw (60) in a second-wicket partnership of 159.

In reply, Stretton were soon in trouble as home skipper Richard Jones took three early wickets.

John Hartshorn and Adam Woodcock picked up two wickets apiece, but the visitors survived for a losing draw. They finished on 131-9, with Oswestry having just four deliveries at the last pair, and skipper Jones ended up with figures of 4-35.

Spectacular

OSWESTRY IV earned their first victory of the season in spectacular fashion, hammering hosts Tibberton II by 10 wickets in the reserve division three.

Nick Woodcock took 3-12, Ellis Griffith 2-12, Matthew Davies 2-14 and Iwan Roberts

managed 2-18 to bowl Tibberton out for just 86.

Iwan Roberts then smashed 69no as he and Andrew Clarke (3no) knocked off the runs in 9.5 overs.

Oswestry play their first all-Shropshire derby of 2014 on Saturday, when they visit Wellington (12 noon) in the Birmingham League division one.

Wellington have chosen the fixture, the first between the clubs since 1998, as their President’s Day, and Oswestry are expecting a big following at the picturesque Orleton Park ground. The seconds are at home to Whitchurch Seconds.

The Thirds visit Newport Thirds on Sunday, and the Fourths play Much Wenlock Seconds at Morda Road on the same day.

Bajaj bags five wickets as Ellesmere march up table



ELLESMERE stepped up their challenge in the Shropshire County Cricket League division two with a five wicket success at one of their chief early rivals Condoover.

With several of their rivals washed out following heavy rain, the Meresiders took advantage to maintain their excellent campaign in second place.

After winning an important loss, they were kept at bay early on by the home openers but once they made the initial breakthrough, wickets started to tumble.

Vansh Bajaj did most of the damage to finish with an impressive 5-11 from six overs, while Fraser Duncan bagged 3-19 off seven overs as Condoover were sent back for 95 in 31 overs. Opener James Upton provided most resistance with 33 at the top of the order.

Runs were also hard to come by in reply, but Ellesmere got over the line in the 29th over for the loss of five wickets with opener Ashley Thomas and Bajaj both making 22 before Kieran Barry helped seal the win with an unbeaten 27 along with Jordan Evans (12no). Patrick Higham kept Condoover in the hunt with 4-33 off 11 overs.

CAE GLAS were one of several sides frustrated by the wet weather with their second division clash at Wellington III postponed due to a waterlogged pitch. Their second team also suffered a similar fate with the home fixture with Newtown II at Gatacre succumbing to the elements.

MONTGOMERY’s home fixture with Much Wenlock in division one was also washed out without a ball bowled, while GUILDSFIELD and WHITTINGTON suffered a similar fate in division four.

Slumped

Early challengers WELSHPOOL II marched on in the reserve division two with a five wicket win in a reduced overs affair at KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II. Heavy rain forced a delayed start, with Pool winning the toss and having little hesitation in putting their hosts in to bat.

That move soon paid dividends, although Knockin clawed their way to 131-9 in their 30 overs, Paul Higginson top scoring with 29 while youngster Joe Monk picked up 4-24 and Robert Anderson 3-35.

Monk then made it a good all round day with a half century (52) in his side’s reply after opening the innings, Dale Evans also weighing in with 32 as Pool reached their target with 2.1 overs remaining. Andrew and Paul Przybylski-Garry both picked up two wickets for Knockin.

MONTGOMERY II beat the rain - but slipped to a five wicket reverse against Beacon II at Frankwell to remain in the lower half of the reserve division two.

Batting first, they were soon in trouble as they slumped to 84 all out in the 35th over despite a defiant 39 from James Corfield while opener Thomas Corfield made 24, Adam Phillips taking 5-19 and John Howarth 3-4.

Beacon then got home with half their wickets intact inside 24 overs, with Toby Kent king 26 not out off 15 balls.



Ellesmere’s Fraser Duncan runs in to bowl during the five wicket win over Condoover in the Shropshire League division two encounter. Duncan finished with impressive figures of 3-19. Pictures: Richard Dawson.



Ellesmere bowler Vansh Bajaj, who took five wickets in his side’s impressive away win over Condoover

De Silva falls just short of a ton for Frankton

BATSMAN Nalaka De Silva fell just one run short of his century as basement side Frankton managed a losing draw at home to Wem in the Shropshire County League premier division.

Although they remain at the foot of the table, Frankton can take some positives from their afternoon’s work, notably the batting of De Silva who was bowled for 99 off 93 balls, containing 12 fours and a six.

His efforts, in a rain reduced game, saw Frankton finish on 183-8 in 41 overs, in response to Wem’s 239-4 declared.

Put in to bat, Wem lost a couple of early wickets before some excellent batting from Gareth Dreyer (74), Matthew Cohen (71)

and Martyn Davies, with a lively 60 not out off just 28 deliveries and containing seven sixes, helped his side post a daunting total.

The Hardwicke Park hosts lost a wicket with just one run on the board in reply, but De Silva helped revive the innings along with some other useful knocks, including 29 from Jordan Parry. Dreyer was the most successful of the Wem bowlers with 4-42.

WELSHPOOL II proved too hot to handle as they swept aside Whitchurch III by 147 runs to consolidate their position in the upper half of division four.

Put in to bat, they rattled up 193-8 in 40 overs, thanks largely to an impressive opening stand between John Gough (82)

and skipper Chris Proctor (84).

Despite the innings falling away somewhat after that, they still posted a useful total, which proved more than enough for Whitchurch who were skittled out for 46, Damon Preston turning in terrific figures of 6-14 off 11 overs.

WELSHPOOL’s clash with KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY in division one was abandoned without a ball being bowled due to wet weather, the two teams picking up five points apiece.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY III suffered a 20 run loss at Alberbury III in division four.

Electing to bowl after winning the toss,

they produced their best performance of the season in the field. Led by young Leg Spinner Ewan James (4-43), supported by Rob Oliver (2-9) and Lawrence Hitchin (2-1), they bowled out Alberbury in 27.5 overs for 98 runs.

The pitch was green and the bounce was variable so it was not going to be easy to knock off the runs and Knockin found themselves in all sorts of bother at 56-8 with Rob Oliver (24) the only one of the top six to get any meaningful runs.

Gareth James gave Knockin hope with 27, batting at No9, but when he was run out the game was gone. They ultimately lost by 20 runs.

PLACINGS

Shropshire Cricket League

Division One

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Madeley	7	6	0	1	3	1 0129
Broseley	7	3	1	0	3	7 96
Alberbury	7	3	0	2	2	9 87
Shelton	7	3	0	3	1	11 84
Market Drayton	7	3	0	2	2	4 92
Montgomery	7	2	2	1	2	1 2475
Lilleshall	7	1	2	2	2	22 67
Forton	7	1	3	2	15	58
Knockin & Kinn	7	1	3	3	24	46
Pontesbury	7	1	0	4	2	16 45
Welsphool	7	1	3	2	14	45
Much Wenlock	7	1	0	2	4	5 1

Division Two

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Tibberton	7	5	0	0	2	122
Ellesmere	7	4	1	1	1	13 116
Condoover	7	3	2	1	1	14 104
Beacon	7	3	0	2	12	95
Shrewsbury III	7	2	0	3	3	9 68
Cae Glas	7	2	0	2	3	5 60
Iscoyd & FB	7	1	2	3	17	56
Wiley	7	1	2	3	13	54
Wellington III	7	1	2	2	21	53
Bishop's Castle	7	1	0	2	4	7 51
Shifnal III	7	0	1	4	2	19 35
Corvedale	7	0	5	2	23	31

Division Three

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Prees	6	3	1	0	2	9 91
Church Stretton	7	3	2	1	1	12 88
Church Aston	7	2	2	0	3	11 77
Wheaton Aston	7	2	1	1	1	12 74
Landloides	7	2	1	3	9	72
Calverhall	6	2	1	2	1	16 71
Wroxeter Grove III	7	2	0	3	2	9 54
Oswestry III	7	1	2	3	10	54
St Georges III	7	2	1	3	14	52
Acton Reynald	7	0	2	1	4	23 52
Chelmarsh	7	1	0	3	3	13 48
Newport III	7	0	1	4	2	17 25

Division Four

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Harpers	7	3	1	1	2	16 102
Ludlow & SS III	7	3	0	1	3	5 92
Whittington	7	2	1	1	3	14 84
Overton-on-Dee	7	1	4	1	1	32 84
Hodnet & Popley	7	2	1	2	15	82
Trysull & Selsdon	7	2	1	3	1	23 81
Coton Hall	7	2	1	1	3	10 74
Gulfsfield	7	2	0	3	2	3 61
Hinstock	7	1	3	0	3	15 59
Harcourt	7	1	3	2	15	57
Quayside	7	1	1	3	2	16 46
Brighthelm III	7	1	0	2	4	4 44

Division 4A

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Wellington V	7	6	0	1	0	5 145
Worfield III	7	3	2	1	1	18 109
Whitchurch III	7	4	0	3	0	15 103
Alberbury III	7	3	2	2	12	90
Welsphool III	7	2	2	1	2	18 87
Cound III	7	2	0	2	3	17 80
Frankton III	7	3	0	3	1	6 75
Bornere Heath III	7	2	1	3	1	11 69
Knockin & Kinn III	7	2	1	3	2	15 68
Reman Services III	7	1	2	3	1	22 52
Wern III	7	0	1	4	2	26 46
Madeley III	7	1	1	4	1	17 42

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	AV
Wellington IV	6	3	1	0	2	0 17.5
Wroxeter G IV	7	4	2	0	1	7 15.0
St Georges IV	7	3	2	0	2	8.14 4
Allscott III	7	2	3	1	1	13 13.8
Landloides II	6	2	0	2	2	7 12.7
Pontesbury III	6	2	1	2	9	12.7 2
Beacon III	7	2	4	0	1	11 12.6
Quatt III	6	2	2	1	10	11.8 6
Acton Reynald II	6	2	3	0	9	9.6 6
Corvedale II	7	1	4	1	1	22 8.5
Lilleshall III	6	0	4	0	2	17 6.5
Shrewsbury IV	6	0	5	1	0	24 2.8

Reserve Division One

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Ludlow & SS II	7	3	2	1	1	20 113
Reman Services II	7	3	1	1	1	16 100
Cound II	7	3	2	1	1	16 97
Worfield II	7	3	0	3	5	86
Wellington IV	7	2	2	1	2	16 82
St Georges II	7	2	1	2	2	16 82
Madeley II	7	2	0	3	2	8 66
Alberbury II	7	1	2	1	3	16 54
Wroxeter G II	7	1	2	1	4	20 51
Wern II	7	0	1	3	3	10 49
Lilleshall II	7	0	2	3	2	15 45
Shifnal II	7	0	3	3	12	29 29

Reserve Division Two

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Bornere Heath II	7	4	0	2	2	12 100
Welsphool II	7	4	1	2	1	12 111
Beacon II	7	3	2	1	2	17 101
Condoover II	7	4	0	2	2	3 101
Pontesbury II	6	3	0	2	2	10 96
Shifnal II	6	2	1	2	10	64
Allscott II	7	2	1	2	2	5 56
Cae Glas II	7	2	1	2	3	33 56
Montgomery II	7	1	4	2	12	30
Knockin & Kinn II	7	1	1	4	2	16 36
Newtown II	7	1	0	4	2	6 30
Market Drayton II	6	0	4	2	3	23 23

Reserve Division Three

	P	W	D	L	C/ABNS	PTS
Ellesmere II	6	3	1	1	1	12 99
Shelton II	6	3	1	1	1	10 86
Albrighton II	7	3	2	2	8	86
Broseley II	7	2	1	1	3	14 83
Iscoyd & FB II	7	2	1	2	3	14 83
Shifnal II	7	2	1	2	4	78
Bishop's Castle II	7	2	2	2	2	74
Forton II	7	2	2	2	2	74
Shifnal IV	7	2	2	2	8	62
Ludlow & SS IV	7	2	0	5	2	27 56
Wroxeter III	7	2	1	2	2	15 55
Oswestry IV	7	1	3	2	12	42
Much Wenlock II	7	0	4	3	3	24 24

Full point haul for the ladies tennis side

OSWESTRY ladies tennis teams were both in winning form at home in their latest Shropshire League action.

The first team played Woodfield 1 with the first pairing of Jo Macrae and Kat Oakley making a productive start against their opponents' first pairing, taking the rubber strongly.

The now established second pairing of Eirian Jones and Fiona Russell continued the march by taking their rubber on a third set tie-break giving the Oswestry ladies a two love lead going into the reverse rubbers.

These rubbers followed a similar pattern with the same results, Macrae and Oakley winning theirs in three sets and Jones and Russell finished off Woodfield's first pair in the same fashion.

It was another terrific win for the Oswestry ladies who collected the full eight points for their efforts.

The second team played a side from Norton-Hales and they too made a flying start with both the first pair of Carol Slater and Speth Cumpston and the second pair of Linda Davies partnering Julie Phillips taking their first round rubbers in straight sets 6-0, 6-3 and 6-4, 6-2 respectively.

The reverse rubbers proved somewhat more difficult with both pairs taking the first set before going down in the deciding third set tie-break.

However, with the Oswestry ladies winning six sets to their opponents' four, they came away with a very valuable six points.

Roberts home first in hill run

SOME 40 Oswestry Olympian runners took part in the Mynydd Myfyr hill run.

The run is approximately 6.5 kilometres (four miles) of mixed terrain on trail paths, through farmland and wooded areas and country lanes, including climbs totalling 150-metres plus.

It serves as an early taster event for the delightful Trefonen Hill Walk Weekend, which raises funds for various charities.

Gallant

This year's race was won by Jez Brown from Buckley AC in a time of 23 minutes seven seconds, while Oswestry Olympian Tim Tansley came a gallant second in 24.45 and unattached local runner Tom Heard was third in 25.39.

Selected Oswestry Olympians results: 5th Steve Roberts 1st M 60 26m 24s; 12th Rob Davies M45 28.22; 13th Anthony Grogan M55 29.48; 14th Ali Ticker 1st F45 29.56; 16th Trevor Searle 2nd M60 30.09; 21st Tania Brandon 3rd F45 31.07; 24th Vicki Luxmore F45 33.12; 28th Barbara Ward 1st F60 33.55; 29th Pete Nesbitt 1st M50 34.46; 30th John O'Shaughnessy m50 1st Chairman 34.54; 31st Will Davison M55 2nd Chairman 35.00; 33rd Liz Park 2nd F40.

Oswestry Olympians last night ran their popular Park Hall 5k – an event that the club has staged for well over 30 years.

A popular and friendly race, it is a terrific introduction to road racing for beginners and also provides a challenge and competition for more serious club runners.

There was also a fun, one-mile junior race.

Ellesmere retain narrow lead at top of the league

IT'S as you were at the top of the Oswestry and District Bowls League division three after the leading two sides both recorded 8-2 victories to stay ahead of the pack.

ELLESMERE A remain one point clear after their 8-2 (155-118) success at WESTON RHYN C, Courtney Metcalfe leading the charge 21-4 and Tony Johnson 21-7, while Eric Gale (21-10) was the best of the replies.

But Ellesmere's B side stayed hard on the heels of their high-flying club mates following their 8-2 (154-102) home verdict against Ceiriog Valley B, Alf Johnson taking the coppers to four, his sixth win in eight outings, while Mike Edwards was next best to seven.

WHITTINGTON B, in fifth, kept in touching distance of the leading pack courtesy of their 7-3 (142-124) verdict at Johnstown D, with Andy Cawthray (21-5) and Eileen Sinker (21-9) single figure winners.

FOX LANE's challenge in division four suffered a jolt as they slumped 8-2 (151-114) at Llangollen

B, their replies coming from Mike Haycocks (21-10) and Mike Llanagan (21-15).

At the other end of the table, WESTON RHYN B are rock bottom after being whitewashed 10-0 (168-113) at Bersham, with Margaret White going closest before losing to 20.

LLANFYLLIN A eased their basement worries with a slender 6-4 (128-126) home success over Corwen B, Malcolm Gibbon bagging the coppers with a 21-6 triumph. And LLANYMYNECH B's prospects are also looking up after seeing off visiting Llangynog C 8-2, but the match was far closer than the score suggests with just three shots (137-134) separating the sides.

Eaton Williams, in winning form for the first time the night before, kept up the good work with his side's best win, coming through 21-12.

LLANRHAEADR D stayed hard on the heels of the leaders in division five after sweeping aside Overton C 9-1 (156-117), with Bronwen Jones the best of the night to nine while Dave Hayward prevailed 21-10.

It was a good week all round in the division with the club's B string overcoming CHURCH B 7-3 (154-118), Juliet Brown in fine form with a win to three while Gwylfa Edwards ran out a 21-7 victor. Natalie Guilar was the best of the replies to 15.

CRIFTINS D consolidated their position among the leading pack after securing a 7-3 (153-140) home verdict against WHITTINGTON C, Ross Rogers winning 21-9 while Roger Tomley replied to 10.

YE OLDE CROFTE B marched on at the top of division six with an 8-2 (155-111) home triumph against WESTON RHYN D to stay well clear of their rivals.

Ted Lewis and Rob Lewis took the honours to eight, Terry Edwards won to nine, while Rhyn's replies came from Jean Jones (21-12) and Malcolm Jones (21-17).

CHURCH E moved clear of the basement with a slender 6-4 home win over Johnstown E, taking the extra two points by just four shots. Dot Thomas bagged the coppers with a 21-9 verdict.

LLANRHAEADR E find themselves adrift at the foot of the table after their 8-2 (160-117) loss at WESTON RHYN E, whose Krystie Lewis led the way to 10, while Huw France and Davie France provided the replies to 17.

■ BLACK LION lifted themselves off the foot of the second division in fine style with an 8-2 (147-115) hammering of visiting CRIFTINS B, Mike Jones and Eddie Rush both winning to nine while Elliot Mochan's excellent 21-6 win in response proved a consolation.

Results – Division Three: Ellesmere B 8 Ceiriog Valley B 2 (154-102), Johnstown D 3 Whittington B 7 (124-142), Plas Kynaston A 8 Chirk B 2 (158-95), Royston A 7 Flexsys B 3 (142-120), Weston Rhy C 2 Ellesmere A 8 (118-155), Whittington E v Church C.

Division Four: Bersham 10 Weston Rhy B 0 (168-113), Ceiriog Valley C 7 Llanrhadr C 3 (154-122), Llanfyllin A 6 Corwen B 4 (128-126), Llangollen B 8 Fox Lane 2 (151-114), Llanymynech B 8 Llangynog C 2 (137-134), Ruabon B 8 Overton B 3 (155-116).

Division Five: Llanrhadr B 7 Church D 3 (154-118), Crifftins D 7 Whittington C 3 (153-140), Johnstown F 6 Cynwyd B 4 (136-132), Llanrhadr D 9 Overton C 1 (156-117), Whittington D 1 Plas Kynaston B 3 (117-159).

Division Six: Church E 6 Johnstown E 4 (124-120), Ruabon C 8 Llangynog B 2 (154-99), Weston Rhy E 8 Llanrhadr E 2 (160-117), Ye Old Crofte B 8 Weston Rhy D 2 (155-111).

PLACINGS

Oswestry & District Bowls League

DIVISION 1				
P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Johnstown A.....	8	0	0	+155 57
Ceiriog Valley A.....	8	4	3	+204 52
Whittington A.....	8	5	3	+125 50
Crifftins A.....	8	7	1	+138 49
Ruabon A.....	8	5	3	+94 46
Church A.....	8	5	3	-24 42
Cynwyd A.....	8	3	5	-45 36
Chirk AAA B.....	8	3	5	-34 34
Flexsys A.....	8	3	5	-77 33
Corwen A.....	8	1	6	-156 27
Johnstown B.....	8	1	6	-190 27
Llanymynech A.....	8	1	6	-214 27

DIVISION 2				
P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Llangollen A.....	8	6	2	+180 54
Ye Old Crofte A.....	8	6	2	+99 47
Llanrhadr A.....	8	5	3	+110 46
Overton A.....	8	5	3	+26 44
Weston Rhy A.....	8	5	3	+177 42
Crifftins C.....	8	5	3	+41 42
George.....	8	3	5	-70 37
Johnstown C.....	8	3	5	-10 36
Crifftins B.....	8	7	1	-98 46
Llangynog A.....	8	4	4	-68 35
Black Lion.....	8	2	5	-95 31
Church B.....	8	3	5	-192 30

DIVISION 3				
P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Ellesmere A.....	8	6	2	+262 54
Ellesmere B.....	8	6	2	+212 53
Plas Kynaston A.....	8	7	1	+94 49
Royston A.....	8	4	4	0 42
Whittington B.....	8	4	4	+28 41
Chirk AAA B.....	8	4	4	+18 41
Johnstown D.....	8	4	4	+40 40
Whittington E.....	7	3	4	+10 36
Weston Rhy C.....	8	3	5	-26 36
Ceiriog Valley B.....	8	3	5	-93 30
Flexsys B.....	8	2	6	-211 30
Church C.....	7	1	6	-309 18

DIVISION 4				
P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Ruabon B.....	8	8	0	+201 56
Ceiriog Valley C.....	8	5	3	+148 53
Fox Lane.....	8	6	2	+189 50
Llangollen B.....	8	5	3	+147 49
Bersham.....	8	6	2	+119 48
Llanrhadr C.....	8	5	3	-40 43
Corwen B.....	8	2	6	-56 33
Overton B.....	8	2	6	-123 33
Llanymynech B.....	8	3	5	-149 32
Llanfyllin A.....	8	3	5	-131 31
Llangynog C.....	8	2	6	-70 30
Weston Rhy D.....	8	2	6	-234 22

DIVISION 5				
P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Cynwyd B.....	8	6	2	+162 52
Llanrhadr D.....	8	5	3	+118 49
Plas Kynaston B.....	8	4	4	+151 44
Crifftins D.....	7	5	2	+107 43
Johnstown F.....	8	2	6	+102 43
Overton C.....	8	4	4	+49 42
Llanrhadr E.....	8	4	4	+12 42
Church D.....	8	4	4	+9 39
Whittington C.....	8	5	0	-56 35
Chirk AAA A.....	8	2	5	-111 35
Royston B.....	8	2	5	-187 33
Whittington D.....	8	0	8	-359 13

DIVISION 6				
P	W	L	D	Agg Pts
Ye Old Crofte B.....	8	5	3	+294 55
Ruabon C.....	6	4	2	+190 41
Weston Rhy D.....	7	3	0	-23 37
Weston Rhy E.....	6	3	3	+26 32
Johnstown E.....	6	3	3	+73 31
Llangynog B.....	6	4	2	+121 31
Church E.....	6	4	2	+121 27
Llanfyllin B.....	7	3	4	-127 27
Cynwyd C.....	6	2	3	-193 22
Llanrhadr E.....	6	0	5	-124 17

Matthews takes the county title

OSWESTRY'S Tom Matthews is the new Shropshire & Herefordshire Union of Golf Clubs Under-14s champion.

Matthews triumphed at Leominster Golf Club, carding a winning score of 79 to claim the trophy on Saturday.

He edged out Horsehay Village's Lewis Jameson who finished second after an impressive round of 82.

Meanwhile Burghill Valley's Morgan Radziejewski beat Lilleshall Hall's Luke Blockside to the Under-12s crown by just one shot at the same venue on Saturday. Radziejewski carded an 85 while Blockside had to settle for second despite a fine 86.

Saints alive to benefits of games as Euro draw looms

THE New Saints have lined up several friendlies as they step up their preparations before this summer's excursion into the UEFA Champions League.

Two of the warm-up games for this season's league and Welsh Cup double winners will pitch them against fellow Welsh Premier League teams in the form of Cefn Druids and Aberystwyth Town.

They will meet the recently promoted Druids at Park Hall stadium on Tuesday, June 24 (7.45pm) while the fixture against Aberystwyth Town – who themselves are in the Europa League this summer – will be played at Park Avenue on Saturday, June 28 (3pm).

The Saints will then travel once more to Northern Ireland to play Danske Bank Champions Cliftonville on Saturday, July 5.

"These games will provide both teams with the ideal match preparation prior to our opening UEFA Champions League game on either July 15 or 16," said Saints boss Craig Harrison.

The unseeded Saints will be eagerly awaiting the outcome of the Champions League second qualifying round draw in Nyon, Switzerland, which takes place on Monday, June 23.

Possible

They were drawn against Polish Champions Legia Warsaw last season and there is a possibility that the two clubs could again face each other.

Other possible opponents for TNS include Scottish champions Celtic, who would be a major draw for spectators.

Stromsgodset, the former team of new Hoops boss Ronny Deila, have also qualified for the Champions League but, like the Saints, are unseeded and so will not face them in this round.

The first leg of the Champions League second qualifying round is scheduled to take place on either July 15 or 16, with the second leg

FOOTBALL

by John Bridgwater

taking place a week later on either July 22 or 23.

Among other possible ties are a trip to Prague to face Czech champions Sparta Prague.

They could also head to Bratislava to face Slovak title holders Slovan Bratislava.

HJK from Helsinki, Finland are also possible opponents.

So too are Latvian champions Ventspils – and if the teams are drawn with each other, the sides would meet for the second time, having first clashed in 2007.

The Saints triumphed 3-2 in the first leg on that occasion, but lost 2-1 in the away leg and with the aggregate scores level suffered the frustration of going out of the competition on away goals.

■ Hot-shot Steve Hole had a season to savour in the Spar Mid Wales League – and he netted the division one top scorer award.

The Waterloo Rovers marksman bagged 36 goals, with 30 in the league and

six in the cup, to lead the scoring charts by four from Llandrindod Wells striker Connor Bird who finished with 32.

Berriew's Elliott Jones finished in the top six with 23 goals (20 in the league and three in the cup) closely followed by Llanfair United's Chris Gethin with 22 (21 in the league and one in the cup) and Charlie Proctor, of Waterloo Rovers, who netted 20 (16-4).

Dyffryn Banw's Tom Foulkes, despite his side's struggles, notched a creditable 20 goals, 17 in the league and three in the cup, while Codie Smart (Llansantffraid Village) netted 18 league goals.

■ The annual meeting of the Spar Mid Wales League will be held at Llandilo Golf Club on Monday, June 16.

The Huws Gray Alliance AGM takes place at Porthmadog on Saturday, June 14.

Guils striker Danny Barton will receive the league's Golden Boot at the event.

Rangers are on the hunt for talented teenagers

ELLESMERE RANGERS' successful youth team will be hoping to attract new players when they hold trials at the Beech Grove club on Sunday (3pm).

To take part, players need to be between the ages of 15 and under-18 on September 1, 2014.

Last season, the Ellesmere young guns finished second in the Midland Floodlit Youth League Premier North in their first campaign since being promoted.

They also won three trophies – the Midland Floodlit Youth Cup, the Umbro Shropshire FA Youth Cup and the minor league cup – while several players went on to represent the first team.

"We have been very successful in producing youth players for the senior sides in previous years and have also had strong success as a youth team," said former man-

ager Dan Stevens, who has recently taken on the reins with the first team.

"We are the only youth team in Shropshire to offer premier division standard semi-professional youth team football."

Prospective players can find out more at www.pitchero.com/clubs/ellesmererangers. The team play in The FA Youth Cup, The Midland Floodlit Youth League Premier North, The Midland Floodlit Youth Cup, The Staffordshire FA Midweek Floodlit Youth Cup and The Umbro Shropshire FA Youth Cup.

Players can turn up on the day at Beech Grove, Ellesmere.

But to assist officials with playing positions, they are asked to register their interest by phoning new youth team manager Tony O'Hanlon on 07967 563818 or emailing owey100@outlook.com.



THE New Saints ladies who lifted the Shropshire Women's Cup for the third year running with an emphatic 6-0 success over Allscott Ladies in the final at



Ben Power in action in the Guttercrest Racing Legends Car (No 55) at Cadwell

Ben powers to third

MID Wales racing driver Ben Power put his Legends Car championship campaign back on track, by securing third place on both days in the latest rounds at Cadwell Park circuit in Lincolnshire.

Power, aged 24, from Guilsfield, near Welshpool, finished a career-high third in last year's UK championship, and is aiming for even better this season.

On the first day of the Cadwell meeting, he finished third, second and fifth in the three races.

Next day he was second in race 1, he spun on some oil in race 2, but recovered well to finish 12th. In the final, he took second place after an intense battle with championship leader Dean Brace and

European series competitor, James Holman.

"This was a much better weekend for us," said Power. "You need to be consistent to have a chance at the title, and results like this – placing third overall on both days - will be a great help."

The championship continues at Anglesey Circuit in July:

19-20 July – Rounds 5 and 6, Anglesey; 9-10 August – Rounds 7 and 8, Rockingham;

23-25 August – Rounds 9 and 10, Donington Park; 13-14 September – Rounds 11 and 12, Snetterton; 4-5 October – Rounds 13 and 14, Pembrey; 1-2 November – Rounds 15 and 16, Brands Hatch.

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Cricketers relishing a big derby clash with Wellington

SKIPPER Mark Robinson will be looking for his Oswestry side to rise to the occasion when they head for their first all-Shropshire derby of the season at Wellington on Saturday (12noon).

A glance at the league table underlines the importance of the encounter, with the two sides lying in the bottom three of the Birmingham Cricket League division one, with the Morda Road side just two points above their hosts.

Saturday's trip to the picturesque Orleton Park marks the return to their old club for four Oswestry players - Robinson, Joe and Robbie Clarke and Alex Huxley. Such is the interest in the game, that Wellington hosts have chosen it as their president's day.

"I had two cracking seasons with Wellington, and it's a great place to play cricket," said Robinson. "When I was playing there seven years ago, they were in the Birmingham League premier division and Oswestry were in the Shropshire League premier division, which was five divisions below, so it shows how far we have come."

"The two sides have not played in the league for a long time, 16 years I think it is, so it's a game to really look forward to."

After last week-end's washout against Bromsgrove, their third game to be abandoned, the Morda Road side will be desperate to get back on the pitch - and can go into the derby in good heart after Sunday's five wicket National T20 win at Stourbridge.

Opener Joe Carrasco is still ruled out, while there is likely to be one change with Scott Hrterale coming in for the unavailable Alun Morris.

Pool facing the leaders

AFTER their frustrations with the weather last week, WELSHPOOL's cricketers return to the pitch on Saturday with a tough clash at the high-riding Madeley as they bid to revive their fortunes in the Shropshire County League division one.

Lying second from bottom, the young Maesyddre side know points are going to be hard-earned this week-end against the leaders.

Double award joy for New Saints winners

THE New Saints crowned a triumphant season by landing a double success at the Welsh Premier awards night at The Towers Hotel in Swansea.

Head coach Carl Darlington picked up the manager of the season award for third consecutive year following the club's league and Welsh Cup winning season, a record equalled only by Gary Barnett, of Barry and Ken McKenna, the TNS ex-boss.

Darlington beat off the challenge from Andy Preece, manager of runners-up Airbus UK, and Carmarthen's Mark Aizlewood and Neville Powell, of Bangor City. And the young player of the season went to TNS midfielder Sam Finley, who had also been nominated for the player of the season accolade.

In winning the young player honour, Finley saw off Christian Doidge (Carmarthen Town), Kieran Smith (Bala Town) and Declan Walker (Bangor City).

Director of football Craig Harrison, who has now taken over the head coach role with Darlington becoming first team coach due to work commitments, was delighted with the accolades for both the management team and Finley.

"To win these awards was a great finish to a great season, but it's been a real team effort, so well done to everyone involved at the club," he said.

Aberystwyth Town midfielder Chris Venables was named the Welsh Premier player of the season. The 27-year-old, who once had a spell with Welshpool in the

Welsh Premier, enjoyed his best-ever season in the league which saw him pick up the Golden Boot award for his 24 goals.

■ Goalkeeper Dave Jones has returned to Welsh Premier side Newtown from neighbours Caersws.

In his first spell at Newtown, Jones played 74 times for the Robins before having spells with Guilsfield and Welshpool.

■ The revamped World League Cup sees The New Saints hit the road in the first round with a tricky trip to Cymru Alliance side Porthmadog.

This season sees the cup competition increased to include 28 clubs, with Guilsfield drawn at home to Cymru Alliance rivals Caernarfon. Ties are to be played from Monday, August 11.

Four clubs have been handed wildcard entries into the first round - Barry Town United, Denbigh Town, Llanidloes Town and Merthyr Town.

There are two all-Welsh Premier affairs with Bangor City at home to Newtown, who the Citizens defeated in this season's Europa League play-off semi-final.

Last season's four semi-finalists, Carmarthen Town, Cambrian & Clydach, Bala Town and Airbus UK, have byes into the second round.

The full first round draw: Porthmadog v The New Saints, Denbigh Town v Cefn Druids, Bangor City v Newtown, Guilsfield v Caernarfon Town, Caersws v Llandudno Town, Prestatyn Town v Conwy Borough, Gap Connah's Quay v Rhyl, Penybont v Llanidloes Town, Barry Town United v Merthyr Town, Aberdare Town v Port Talbot Town, Taffs Well v Aberystwyth Town, Haverfordwest County v Afan Lido. The ties are to be played from 11 August.

Revenge as Church get own back on green

CHURCH A gained sweet revenge with a fine 8-2 home success against Crifftins A to consolidate their top six position in the Oswestry and District Bowls League division one.

After losing 6-4 at home in the corresponding fixture last season, Church put the record straight with skipper Travis Stokes winning to 11 as his side opened up a 4-0 lead in the front four.

Steve Williams then took the coppers to eight in the back as Crifftins' challenge again faltered on the road this term, Sandra Barker replying 21-9 for the 2012 champions who lost the aggregate 147-121.

WHITTINGTON A slipped into fourth spot following their 7-3 (154-130) loss at second placed Ceiriog Valley A, skipper Aled Davies their best reply to 14 and Graham Humphreys winning 21-17, his seventh success in eight outings.

LLANYMYNECH A are one point adrift at the foot of the table after their 8-2 (165-112) defeat at high flying Johnstown A. Paula Worden (21-19) and Roger Candlin (21-20) earned their replies, but they could have returned with more from their visit.

Ruabon A edged into third spot with their 7-3 (155-132) home verdict against Johnstown B while Chirk A notched a 7-3 (14 shots) success against visiting Corwen A and Flexsys A were 8-2 (159-119) home winners against Cynwyd A.

WESTON RHYN A stayed in touch with the division two leaders after fighting back for a 7-3 (159-126) home win over CHURCH B, John Renwick taking the coppers to eight and Brian Oakley winning to 11.

Church had led 3-1 after the first four through William Lewis (21-17), Glyn Edwards (21-18) and Merv Weaver, the latter with his seventh win of the season.

Fixtures for Tuesday, June 17 - Div one: Ceiriog Valley A v Johnstown A, Corwen A v Flexsys A, Crifftins A v Ruabon A, Johnstown B v Cynwyd A, Llanymynech A v Church A, Whittington A v Chirk A. **Div two:** Church B v Overton A, Llangollen A v Weston Rhynddraeth A, Llanhaeadr A v Crifftins B, Ye Olde Crofte A v Llanygrog A.

LOCAL PAIR GET GAMES CALL-UP

BADMINTON ace Oliver Gwilt and marathon man Andy Davies are ready to seize their big chance after landing dream call-ups to represent Wales in next month's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Gwilt, from Guilsfield, was rewarded for his performances after marking his return from injury by taking doubles glory at the 2014 Yonex Welsh National Badminton Championships at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff earlier this year.

by John Bridgwater

And Forden runner Davies, the Maldwyn Harrier, will also make his Games debut for the Wales team following a string of superb times and placings in the past year that saw him meet the required criteria.

Davies, a former amateur footballer who has now turned 34, will be relishing rubbing shoulders with some big names after being part of a 33-member athletics team that includes 400m hurdler Dai Green.

However, there was disappointment for Welshpool teenager Adele Nicoll, the former Oswestry Olympian, who narrowly missed out on a place in the Games in the

shot putt despite personal best performances this season.

Gwilt's call-up comes after hopes of making the six-strong team appeared to be in doubt when the doubles specialist suffered a triple break to his arm during last summer's World Championships in China, missing five months of the season.

But the 20-year-old bounced back stronger than ever and, following a tremendous run of form across Europe with partner Daniel Font, secured his place in the Games which run from July 23-August 3.

Gwilt had a taste of competing for Wales with Font for a multi-sport event after travelling to the Isle of Man for the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2011. The duo also won the gold medal at the 2009 UK School Games as well as being current national doubles champions.

"This is the biggest honour so far and I cannot wait for it to start," said the Guilsfield lad. "Daniel and I are realistic and do not expect to be among the medals but we will be aiming to go as far as we can and get

shot putt despite personal best performances this season.

"It was great to be back playing badminton again after my injury in China last summer. To play in my first tournament since the injury and to win was amazing, especially as it was the Welsh Nationals doubles title."

Gwilt will also team up with the impressive Sarah Thomas in the mixed doubles.

Chris Jenkins, chief executive of the Commonwealth Games Council for Wales, said: "Our badminton team for Glasgow 2014 contains a mixture of youth and experience with over half of the players set to make their senior Commonwealth debuts."

"The recent successes of players such as Sarah Thomas will act as a real inspiration for the whole team and, from all at Commonwealth Games Wales, we wish them the best of luck."

Berriew bowlers Kathy Pearce, Caroline Taylor and bowls team manager Hazel Wilson have also been named in the Welsh squad, while former Welshpool High School pupil Gerald Phiri will race for Zambia in the 100m.

Vicky a driving force on golf course



Shropshire golf champion Vicky Bradbeer with Paul Trench at her place of work

VICKY Bradbeer will have her sights on a hat-trick after being crowned Shropshire Ladies County Golf Champion - her second ownership of the title after winning the tournament back in 2012.

Bradbeer, who previously took the title in 2012, beat off stiff competition to claim the tournament victory at her home club at Oswestry Golf Club.

The new Shropshire Ladies County

Golf champion for 2014 works as a sales administrator at the Oswestry branch of JT Hughes; the premier Honda, Mitsubishi, Nissan and Hyundai motor dealer in Shropshire and Mid-Wales.

JT Hughes group sales and marketing director, Paul Trench said: "We couldn't be more proud of Vicky for taking this title for the second time."

"She faced some stiff competition."

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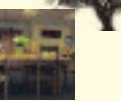
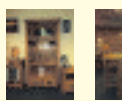
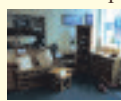


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